

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, January 16, 2014

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Sport - Pages 35 & 36



Proposal to boost children centres

CREDIT unions, citizen's advice surgeries and health clinics will be based at children's centres, under new proposals sparked after councillors revealed controversial closure plans for the network.

Councillors say increasing the number of services offered could actually help reduce costs to run the 20 children's centres based in Dudley borough.

Around 1,500 people took part in a consultation after concerns were raised following the shock announcement that seven centres would close.

Outcry

Dudley Council leader Councillor David Sparks scrapped that idea late last year following the public outcry which saw campaigners take to the streets.

But he said centres could have their hours cut and services re-structured to four main 'hub' sites to help save £2.3 million from budgets.

However, councillors on the overview and scrutiny management board believe the authority should work with other sectors to 'integrate services'.

Councillor Sparks said: "We are having a review of children centres - we are not going to be closing any, what we are doing, however, has not yet been decided."

Police boss is costing £73k

THE cost of running the office of West Mercia's police commissioner will run to almost three-quarters of a million pounds this year.

The budget for staffing the office of West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner Bill Longmore is £730,000 for 2013/14.

Police commissioners were set up to cut down on costly bureaucracy in police forces.

But the cost of Mr Longmore's office is just £35,000 less than the budget for 2011/12 for the former West Mercia Police Authority.

NEW TALKS AIM TO SAVE THEATRE

by Andrew Turton

CAMPAIGNERS fighting to save Dudley Hippodrome are optimistic that major shows will once again grace its historic stage as takeover plans were revealed.

Behind-the-scenes talks have been held with an events company and campaigners battling to save the old theatre from being flattened. The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome said officials from the firm, headed by the venue's former owners, were brokering talks with Dudley Council over their proposals.

Group members were delighted that international entertainment company Events That Rok were behind a proposal to buy the Hippodrome. The firm, which has a base in Altringham, was co-founded by businessman Jonathan Kendrick. His father Vic Kendrick owned the theatre in the 1960s when it was revamped as a casino club.

It comes after Dudley Council reiterated its plans to bulldoze the theatre as part of wider multi-million pound redevelopment plans for Castle Hill.

It has given fresh hope to campaigners days after they were dealt a major blow when their popular leader, Geoff Fitzpatrick, died. They vowed to continue their fight in his memory.

Refurbishment

Campaigners say talks have been going on behind the scenes with Events That Rok for the past four months. They have given the company access to details they gathered as part of their business plan including projected costs for the refurbishment.

Friends spokesman Dr Paul Collins said the company had put together an offer for the theatre and a fully costed plan to refurbish the building. "This is early days but it is good news. This has left us very, very optimistic," he said.

Jonathan Kendrick, an ex-Goodyear factory worker, made his money through collaboration with US billionaire John Paul DeJoria on a drinks brand called ROK Stars.

Events That Rok produce live events and has been involved in the Snooker Legends series at venues like the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield with stars Stephen Hendry, Jimmy White and Steve Davis.

Chief executive Jason Francis declined to go into details but said: "The friends group have been very helpful informing us of the recent history with the building."

The news comes just days after Dudley Council's regeneration boss Councillor Judy Foster said campaigners lacked any 'sensible' plans for it to be saved. On Tuesday she said: "We have always made it clear that sensible proposals for the former Gala Bingo building would be considered. We can confirm we've received an outline proposal from Events That Rok which we are considering but in parallel we're continuing to seek consent for demolition through our existing planning application."

Brandon rides dream machine



Silver dream machine - terminally ill Brandon Carter, aged 26, of Colley Gate was joined by hundreds of bikers at Streetbike on Mucklow Hill as he realised his ambition to ride a Harley Davidson, joining them on a ride to Shropshire and back

IT WAS a dream come true for Brandon Carter as he was whisked off for a ride on a Harley Davidson.

Hundreds of bikers and pillion riders turned out in support of the 26-year-old from Colley Gate, who has been diagnosed with terminal cancer but wanted to fulfil his wish of taking to the seat of his dream bike.

Organisers had originally planned a small gathering but as word started to spread, more and more bikers wanted to join in and help raise money.

On Sunday around 400 bikers descended on Streetbike in Halesowen to set out on a ride to Quatt near Bridgnorth, a favourite cafe stop for Black Country motorcyclists.

The group, which included several marshals, set off at 11am with police stopping the traffic to allow them to leave the site in safety.

They travelled to Stourbridge and then on to Enville and Six Ashes before arriving near Bridgnorth.

Mr Carter, who was diagnosed with a melanoma in November, said he was 'shocked' by the huge turnout. "It was a surprise. I wasn't expecting so many people. I'm a big fan of Harleys from watching films," he added.

His uncle David Brenton said: "The number of bikes was unbelievable. I am so grateful from the bottom of my heart. This is exactly what Brandon needs and hopefully will give him a bit of a lift."

One of the organisers, Stewart Boggild, 26, said: "This is what bikers do. We are a family. We like to support each other. When word got out on Facebook about the event, we couldn't believe the reaction. Before we knew it we had almost 280 people sign up."

Jail for owner of starving animals

FOUR emaciated horses with skin infections had been left for around four months with little to eat in a muddy Halesowen field.

RSPCA inspectors claimed the horses were among the most 'serious' cases of neglect they had encountered after being called to a paddock off Manor Way by concerned passers-by. Now their owner is behind bars and ordered not to have another animal for at least 20 years.

Father-of-two Dean Young, 34, of Hilton Road, Tividale, wept as he was jailed for five months at Dudley Magistrates Court.

Mr Nick Sutton, prosecuting for the RSPCA, said six horses had been found on a plot which was 'wholly inadequate'. A large bale of hay was found but was still inside its black plastic wrapping.

Young pleaded guilty at a previous hearing to causing unnecessary suffering to protected animals between January 30 and April 24. He pleaded guilty on the basis he accepted responsibility for three of the horses but not the fourth, which he said belonged to a friend.

Mr Harbinder Gahir, defending, said Young 'had no real insight into horses'.

Mr Gahir notified the court that Young would be considering appealing his sentence.

Waste plant jobs on way

A FORMER railway goods building in Lye will be converted into a waste processing plant, creating nine jobs.

Plastic, card, paper and glass will be delivered to the site where it will be sorted into bails and then delivered elsewhere. The Ecology Waste Solutions Ltd plant would deal with up to 10,000 ton of waste per year.

A planning application for a change of use at the site on Conyers Trading Estate, Station Drive, has been approved by Dudley Council. The building was used for cardboard manufacturing.

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Health centre assurances sought after death

HEALTH bosses have vowed to monitor standards at a walk-in centre after a coroner raised concerns following the death of a talented art student.

Evelyn Purchase, aged 20, from Cradley, died of pneumonia just 36 hours after being sent home with antibiotics by an out-of-hours GP. She was found dead by her mother at their home, in Butchers Lane, on April 6 last year.

Black Country senior coroner

Robin Balmain questioned the care she received at Dudley's walk-in health centre at her inquest.

Evelyn had been feeling unwell for more than three months having previously been diagnosed with sinusitis. She was given two courses of antibiotics but was still feeling unwell when she was examined by Dr Mahmud Ahmed at the Holly Hall clinic on April 4 last year.

Mr Balmain said he feared the consultation was 'less than optimal'

after Dr Ahmed sent her home with antibiotics and antidepressants to help 'lift' her spirits so she could regain her appetite.

Contract

The coroner said the checks had been 'incomplete' but said it was 'not possible' to say if her life could have been saved.

Her mother Tara Purchase said she believed her daughter should have been admitted to hospital.

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group is seeking assurances from Primicare, which has a £1.4 million contract to run the centre.

Dr David Hegarty, clinical chair of Dudley CCG, said: "We expect the highest standards of care for all patients who use the services we commission. We will be seeking an assurance from the provider of the Walk In Centre service that action has been taken to deal with any issues raised by the coroner."

Family in tribute to father, 78



Enthusiast - Stafford Screen
THE family of a model aeroplane enthusiast have paid a tearful tribute following his inquest, saying: "He was our rock - he has left a huge void in our lives."

Stafford Screen, 78, from Wollescote, a trophy-winning member of Blackheath and Halesowen Model Aircraft Club, died from heart complications following surgery to treat severe back pain at Birmingham's Royal Orthopaedic Hospital.

An inquest at Smethwick Coroners Court this week heard how Mr Screen had faced a tough decision over whether to have the lumbar spine fusion surgery following six months of back ache.

Dr Adrian Gardner, consultant orthopaedic spinal surgeon, said he could have died in three months if he did not have treatment.

Complications

Following an operation on Christmas Eve 2012, Mr Screen suffered complications and was taken into the high dependency unit. He was then taken to Russell's Hall Hospital's intensive care unit but his condition further deteriorated. Dr David Stanley, unit consultant, said nothing more which could be done to save his life and Mr Screen died from acute pericarditis at Dudley on January 2, 2013.

Giving a narrative verdict, Black Country coroner Robin Balmain said: "Death was due to complications, probably bacterial infection, which followed elective surgery properly indicated and performed."

The family of the retired consultant engineer, of Stevens Road, paid tribute to him.

His daughter Debbie said: "We have lost a wonderful and irreplaceable father. Wife Pamela added: "We miss him terribly."

Mr Screen competed in model plane flying, representing Great Britain on 31 occasions including 23 consecutive World and European Championship teams from 1977 to 1999.

He also leaves another daughter Susanne and four grandchildren.

Bully row Tory council couple defect to UKIP

Show set to be giant success



Giant Rob Morrison with a cow played by Katelyn Laws, 15, of Dudley and Josh Bennett, 16, of Kingswinford plus Rachel Gresswell of Kingswinford as Jack, Billy Sylv Hickling from Stourbridge and green fairy Rebecca Thorne of Wombourne AUDIENCES with a head for heights will go on a magical journey as Brierley Hill Musical Theatre Company presents the panto classic Jack and the Beanstalk.

The classic retelling of the fairytale features magic beans, a giant beanstalk and Daisy the Cow to bring fun for all the family throughout this week with final performances at Brierley Hill Civic Hall, Bank

Street, on Saturday. Company spokeswoman Jo Gresswell said: "The cast are a fun-loving bunch who are dedicated to giving their best performance. It is an all-round family panto."

Tickets are priced £10 for balcony seats or £9.50 for stalls. Stalls tickets are priced at £10 on the final night. Call 0845 658 8195 for details or visit www.bhmtc.co.uk

A HUSBAND and wife who served as Conservative councillors for more than a decade have defected to UKIP.

Councillor Ken Turner and his wife Councillor Hazel Turner, who have seats on Dudley Council, quit the Tories last month. The couple left in a row after Halesowen councillor Ken Turner was accused of 'bullying' behaviour by local party officials - a claim he denies.

Just weeks later their son Adrian, who was once a Dudley Council cabinet member, also left the Conservative party to go to UKIP and will stand in the next local elections for them.

Opposition

Councillor Ken Turner, who represents Hayley Green and Cradley South with his wife, said: "Following discussions with friends, family and the local UKIP branch I was pleased to accept membership of Dudley & Halesowen UKIP. "I am looking forward to representing UKIP within Dudley Council and helping to take sufficient seats to become the official opposition group."

"This is an opportunity to explore major regeneration avenues producing vital and necessary funding to maintain and improve services to our residents."

The couple had been Conservative party members since they were first elected in 2002 and 2003.

Bill Etheridge, chairman of UKIP's Dudley & Halesowen Association said: "I am delighted to welcome Councillors Ken and Hazel Turner to our team as well



Councillors Hazel and Ken Turner with UKIP leader Nigel Farage

as taking their son Adrian as a candidate for the forthcoming council elections.

"The Turners are well known in the Halesowen area as being straight talking and independent minded, so joining UKIP seems to be a perfect fit for them."

Mr Turner has been a member of Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club and was once spokesman for regeneration schemes in Dudley borough for the Conservative group.

The 70-year-old said he was taking legal advice about the accusation over 'bullying' behaviour, claiming it was defamatory.

Dudley Conservative group leader, Councillor Patrick Harley, denied there had been bullying towards the couple

Father stabbed his son

A 50-year-old man has admitted stabbing his son following a row at a house in the Black Country. George Adam appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court and admitted a charge of wounding with intent.

The attack against his 28-year-old son Shane happened in Pryor Road, Oldbury, on October 1. Adam, of Stourbridge Road, Halesowen, will be sentenced on February 28.

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Driver in fatal crash is pleading not guilty



Driver Richard Edmonds

A MOTORCYCLIST died at the roadside when he was thrown 130ft from his bike which became engulfed in flames moments after hitting a car that pulled out from a junction, a court heard.

Richard Edmonds, aged 82, allegedly caused the 'massive' crash which led to the death of Allan Green, of Cradley Heath.

Edmonds, who is a literary editor for the Birmingham Post, had to be pulled from his Vauxhall Corsa. Just after bystanders freed him, his car burst into flames too.

Emerg

Prosecutors accuse Edmonds, of Dowles Road, Bewdley, of driving without due care and attention, causing the death of Mr Green. The court heard Edmonds emerged from Six Ashes Road at the crossroads junction with the A458 at Six Ashes, near Bridgnorth, at around 2pm on October 30, 2012.

Opening the case, Mr Andrew Jackson, prosecuting, said: "Mr Edmonds said he had been to discuss the framing of one of his pictures with a man near Sedgley and thereafter decided to drive to see an old house about which he had apparently written a story."

But he pulled into the path of a BMW R1200 motorbike being ridden by Mr Green, a 66-year-old married father-of-two of Gawne Lane. The crash sent the car and bike spinning, throwing Mr Green into a roadside sign near the Six Ashes pub, before both vehicles caught fire.

Mr Green died at the scene as a consequence of multiple injuries.

Mr Jackson told Stafford Crown Court that Edmonds had 'failed to look properly when crossing', saying: "According to the experts and their calculations Mr Green on his motorcycle would have been in the range of vision of Mr Edmonds," he said.

Edmonds denies the charge and the trial continues.

Father killed by legal drug bought on internet

A FATHER died after overdosing on a morphine-like drug he bought over the internet to help him sleeping – and now a senior coroner is calling on the Home Office to investigate online purchase of substances.

Jason Nock, aged 41, was found unresponsive by his partner Lea Maninang when she woke at their home in Cradley Heath. He was rushed to Russells Hall Hospital but was later pronounced dead on August 17. Tests later showed he had almost five times the fatal dose of the legal morphine-like drug AH 7921 in his body.

He had purchased the synthetic substance over the internet.

Mr Nock, who worked as a computer technician at Carl Zeiss in Perry Barr, left behind his partner of seven years and their one-year-old baby Jemima.

Tragic

At an inquest at Dudley Coroner's Court last week, Black Country senior coroner Robin Balmmain described Mr Nock's death as tragic.

He said: "Mr Nock has been taking a drug that's not illegal. It's apparently readily available on the internet but he has taken a lot of it."

After concluding that Mr Nock's death

was an accident, Mr Balmmain said he would write to the Home Office regarding the case.

He said: "I think it's necessary that people like me do draw to the attention of the Home Office what the problems are, to see if anything can be done."

Miss Maninang, aged 43, a nurse at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, moved in with Mr Nock at his home in High Haden Road in 2012. The couple's baby was just six months old when Mr Nock died.

She told the hearing: "He ordered it from the internet and they delivered it."

"He was saying it helped with his sleep-

ing."

Pathologist Dr Sixto Batitang told the hearing Mr Nock had died from an overdose of the drug, which recorded 4.46 milligrams per litre of blood in his body. The fatal level of the drug typically ranges between 0.81 and 0.99 milligrams.

Mr Batitang said: "In this case the level was way up on the normal fatal levels – almost five times."

He said the drug was similar to morphine.

It can cost £36 for 14 pills.

The hearing heard how Mr Nock had suffered depression and had been admitted to hospital for a drug overdose a month before he died.

Eviction ruling on estate's jailed neighbour from hell

South America way wins

TASTY bean stew – served in a tea cup – and a Brazilian party host saw TV show Come Dine With Me come back with a bang in the Black Country.

Stourbridge foodie Jeanne Carvalho-Kelly proved herself to be a cooking queen when she wowed her fellow diners on the Channel 4 show.

The 44-year-old psychologist from Heath Lane, hosted a dinner party for three other competitors, and dazzled them with her spicy Brazilian food and also her huge collection of porcelain tea cups, which she began collecting after moving from South America 12 years ago.

Serving up a three-course meal with a fish starter followed by a Brazilian bean stew called feijoada – in a tea cup – with beef and then her own version of crème anglaise, she won the contestants over to win the show's £1,000 prize.

The show was aired in one episode on Friday with filming having taken place in November. It is not the first time the hit show has been filmed in the region. In 2005 Smethwick's Lee Pritchett got the lowest ever score after throwing his crème brûlée out of the window and kicking his oven door off its hinges.



They liked her very much – Jeanne Carvalho-Kelly, who wowed guests on TV cooking show Come Dine With Me with her Brazilian dishes and vintage tea cups

FOR years she had been making her neighbours' lives a misery by persistently abusing and threatening them.

But now 60-year-old Beryl Rose will be evicted from her home in Tenbury House, Halesowen after council bosses took action. In December 2013 she was jailed for six months after breaching an interim injunction taken out to stop her intimidating, aggressive and threatening conduct.

Dudley Council has been given the power to repossess her flat, which comes into force

on Wednesday, January 22, for persistent abuse, threats of violence and racially aggravated behaviour.

Anti-social

Rose was also made subject to a two-year injunction banning her from the estate.

Residents had contacted the council for help, after becoming fed up of her anti-social behaviour.

The injunction also bans Rose from using threatening or violent behaviour towards other residents within 100 metres of any other property where she lives in the Dudley borough in the future.

At the hearing at Dudley County Court, Rose was ordered to pay rent arrears totalling £1,164.33 and legal costs of £1,169.50.

Dudley Council said it would not tolerate anti-social behaviour and praised the residents for coming forward.

Councillor Steve Waltho, cabinet member for housing

by Simon Stone

and community safety, said: "I'd like to thank the residents at Tenbury House for their courage in standing up to threatening and abusive behaviour."

"I hope that the action taken by the council and its partners in this case serves as a wake-up call to any other residents who are causing misery to others. We do not tolerate anti-social behaviour."

"I urge anyone else in the borough who is experiencing ongoing neighbourhood abuse not to suffer in silence. Contact us and we will use all of the powers at our disposal to stamp out threatening or criminal behaviour."

One resident of Tenbury House, who did not want to be named, said: "It is a shame it had to come to this but she really was making people's a misery. I used to dread going down in the lift in case I bumped into her and she would start shouting at me."

Honour for charity chief

A WOMAN from Cradley Heath was rewarded in the New Year Honours list for her work championing the disabled.

Jayne Leeson was awarded the MBE for services to people with intellectual disabilities. Ms Leeson is the chief executive of Sandwell-based Changing Our Lives, a charity which supports people with disabilities of all ages throughout the West Midlands. She founded the charity in 2002, with a group of people with learning disabilities.

NEWS in brief

Jobs lost as firm moves to Digbeth

A GALVANIZING business has moved out of the Black Country with the loss of 15 jobs.

Arkinstall Galvanizing, which has had its head office in Tividale for the past five years, will return to its original site in Digbeth, Birmingham.

Galvanizing work has ceased at the rented works at Dudley Road West, while Arkinstall has also sold its sales and logistics business there to Halesowen-based Joseph Ash. It's collection and delivery service will now operate out of the Joseph Ash galvanizing site at Brinerton Street, Walsall.

History talks will be held at libraries

A NEW series of local history talks is taking place in borough libraries.

Borough geologist Graham Worton will be talking about the history of coalmining in Sandwell Valley on January 29 at Dudley Library.

There will be an afternoon of Black Country humour, poetry and banter, presented by David Bartley, at Stourbridge Library on January 31.

Both talks start at 2.30pm. Admission is £3 and includes refreshments.

Chance to try out wheelchair rugby

PEOPLE are being offered the chance to try wheelchair rugby for free this month and next.

Free taster sessions are on offer at Portway Lifestyle Centre, Newbury Lane, Oldbury, to try the sport, which captured people's imagination during the London 2012 Olympics. Sessions will run on January 20, 27 and February 3. Visit www.gbwr.org.uk

Sorting office to be housing site

A FORMER sorting office will be razed to the ground to make way for housing.

The building on Simpson Street, Oldbury, will be demolished so the land can be used for new homes. The proposal was given consent by Sandwell planning officers under delegated powers.

Chess club hold weekly meetings

A CHESS club is meeting every Tuesday. Mercia Chess Club will meet at Sedgley Ex-Servicemen's Club, at The Walk, Sedgley, at 7.30pm.

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NEWS

THE BEST
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RHODES

I WROTE a few days ago about how the free movement of Labour within the EU has stripped some regions of their population. A reader writes: "It's January 9 and I have not seen a Bulgarian yet. To be fair, I've only been in Bulgaria for three days."

UP in the attic I found a 1997 copy of Punch. It recorded the 10th anniversary of the death of Liberace and explained how, by legal threats, pay-offs and the sheer power of his celebrity status, the star managed to keep his sexual preferences a secret for years. Couldn't possibly happen now, could it?

UNTIL I saw Nick Robinson's programme, modestly entitled The Truth About Immigration, (BBC2) I thought it would be impossible to make a 60-minute documentary addressing people's concerns without once mentioning jihad, sharia courts, forced marriage, electoral fraud, urban overcrowding, road safety, women in veils, genital mutilation, gangmaster slavery, the rise of TB, pickpockets, aggressive begging or terrorist plots. Robinson managed to treat mass migration purely as an economic issue. His conclusion? Basically, everything's fine. Another triumph for Auntie Beeb.

FROM a long, long list of internet gags about England's dismal drubbing in the Ashes, I had to smile at this: What do you get if you cross the English cricket team with an Oxo cube? A laughing stock.

IT IS alleged that ministers and officials had more than 100 meetings with the drinks industry before deciding not to impose alcohol price controls. So what's new? The relationship between the drinks industry and Parliament is a long and jolly one which, over the years has given us the great national gifts of cheap booze, 24-hour drinking and super-strength lager. But of course all vested interests use alcohol in the process of lobbying. In the good old days some honourable members were so well lobbied that they slid off the benches in the Commons after lunch. Absolutely lobbied.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

New wheelie bins are to be rolled out across borough

TENS of thousands of extra homes will receive wheelie bins when the final phase of a £2.5million project is rolled out next month.

They are being delivered by Dudley Council to the remaining 49,000 homes ahead of new collections starting in March.

Improvements are also being made to recycling services to enable people to recycle plastic bottles and cardboard from the kerbside.

Residents will use their blue bag for paper and card, green bag for plastic bottles and cans and their existing black box for glass bottles and jars.

By March 128,000 homes in the borough will have received their new bins.

Patience

Councillor Tracy Wood, cabinet member for environment and culture, said: "I would like to thank our residents for their patience as we take these final steps to roll out our improved waste services."

"The new service enables us to collect more recycling from the kerbside while making more efficient waste collections."

Homes in Lower Gornal, Cradley, Halesowen and Brierley Hill are included in the final phase.

While residents in Quarry Bank, Netherton, Coseley, Kingswinford were among those who received the first batch of bins.

The council has launched

by Heather Large

an 'incentive scheme' to encourage people to recycle more by including offering special deals for visitors to popular local tourist attractions such as Dudley Zoo and the Ruskin Glass Centre in Stourbridge.

The council is recruiting other businesses to sign up to the scheme.

The wheelie bin plan will save the council £250,000 that is currently spent on black sacks each year.

Residents are given a grey 180-litre wheelie bin for their non-recyclable waste - which is expected to hold the equivalent of three black bags.

But residents who have less rubbish can swap their bin for a smaller 140-litre version.

In November the council was awarded £1.8million of government funding so that it could continue weekly bin collections and increase recycling services across the borough.

Crafty start for natural fun in parks



Leah Watton and five-year-old son Ethan Watton taking part in the mosaic session

A FREE programme of events to help people enjoy the great outdoors has been launched.

Parks and nature reserves across Dudley borough will be welcoming visitors to enjoy a range of activities. Priory Park has already held a successful mosaics craft session.

History

Events include a walk at the Wrens Nest Nature Reserve in Dudley from 10.30am on Sunday. Visitors will be able to discover the importance of the site and find out about its natural history and industrial past. Book in advance.

On January 25, Priory Park will host the big garden bird watch. Running from 2pm to 3pm, the event will give people the chance to spot birds and send information to the RSPB. Binoculars will be provided.

A weekly morning walk also takes place at The Leasowes in Halesowen. Meet at 10am start in the car park off Mucklow Hill. See www.dudley.gov.uk/green-spaces/health or call Dudley Council Plus on 0300 555 2345 for more information.



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Suspended sentence for breach of an order

ONE of three men who stole alcohol and paintball equipment belonging to a nightclub has been given a suspended prison sentence for breaching a community order.

Shane Bates, aged 23, of Long Lane, Rowley Regis, previously pleaded guilty to one charge of burglary at Planet Nightclub in Wolverhampton and another of causing criminal damage at a nearby hostel.

Absence

He was subsequently given a community order, with a requirement to undergo 12 months' supervision, as well as to carry out 100 hours of unpaid work.

Wolverhampton Magistrates Court heard that although Bates had shown 'a great willingness' to comply with the order at first, he later missed appointments and stopped turning up for community work.

He had been found guilty in his absence in December of a single charge of breaching a community order, to which he had entered no plea. Magistrate revoked his community order and handed him two eight-week prison sentences – one for each of the original charges – each suspended for 12 months to run concurrently. They further ordered him to undergo 12 months' supervision and pay £85 costs.

Unemployed Bates committed the offence on June 19, along with two others.

Lawful killing ruling over stabbing of jealous rival



David Carpenter

A MAN who was stabbed to death by his love rival when he broke into his former home, was killed lawfully, a coroner has ruled.

The tragedy happened when David Carpenter and his nephew Mitchell While broke down the door of his ex-girlfriend's Halesowen house because they wanted to 'sort out' her new partner.

Mr Carpenter was stabbed by Ian Swinburne, the partner of his ex-girlfriend Nicola Bennett, acting in self-defence.

Miss Bennett told an inquest that when they broke in on the night of February 3, she feared both she and Mr Swinburne would be killed. But it was Mr Carpenter, aged 47, of Yardley Close, Oldbury, who died when Mr Swinburne grabbed an eight-inch knife from the kitchen and stabbed him in the chest.

Price hike is 'unfair'

INFLATION busting rail fare rises are a 'tax on hard working commuters', says a candidate for Parliament.

Stephanie Peacock, who is standing for the Labour party in Halesowen and Rowley Regis, said passengers at Rowley Station had told her of their anger at the 3.1 per cent average increases in fares as they returned to work after the Christmas break. She said: "Listening to local people as they return to work has demonstrated to me just how angry people feel about the cost of living crisis. At a time when real wages are falling and families are feeling the squeeze, this tax on commuters is unfair."

Report by Louise Jew

Black Country Senior Coroner Robin Balmain said that alcohol and amphetamine found in Mr Carpenter's system, together with 'jealousy', had escalated the situation out of proportion. Concluding that it had been a 'lawful killing', Mr Balmain said: "I am perfectly satisfied that Mr Swinburne did not intend to kill Mr Carpenter. What he was doing was acting in a defensive mode."

Mr Balmain added that Mr Swinburne, now aged 50 and living with Miss Bennett in the house in Graham Road, Halesowen, had waved the knife to try to scare off the two men. Mr Swinburne was originally charged with murdering Mr Carpenter. But the Crown Prosecution Service dropped the charge. The CPS has issued guidelines that anybody can use 'reasonable force' to protect themselves.

"They are not expected to make judgements about the force used in the heat of the moment, provided it is what is necessary," said Mr Balmain. "They don't have to wait to be attacked."

After the inquest Miss Bennett said that she and Mr Swinburne were 'pleased and relieved' at the verdict.

While, aged 29, of Bodenham Road, Brandhall, previously pleaded guilty to using threatening words and behaviour and assault on Mr Swinburne. He was sentenced to four months in prison suspended for 18 months and put under supervision for 12 months.

Detective Sergeant Harry May "It was very tragic that David Carpenter lost his life in this incident. However, his and Mitchell While's aggressive behaviour by forcing their way in someone's home led to this terrible outcome."

Museums get a deep clean

MUSEUM staff are busy at work putting in new displays and giving sites a deep clean as they close during the winter period.

Sandwell museums closed to casual visitors at the end of November and will reopen at the start of April.

And while doors are shut, staff are busy behind the scenes cleaning sites from top to bottom before reopening.

Delicate

At Haden Hill House Museum in Cradley Heath, employees are painstakingly cleaning delicate china as well as taking items out of storage to display.

Alison Hyatt, visitor services officer at the museum on Halesowen Road, said: "At this time of year we take the opportunity to give all of our rooms and furniture a good deep clean."

"They get cleaned all the year round, but we want to empty cabinets of china, move big pieces of furniture so we can give it a good clean."

One of the new attractions staff will be working on is a new servants bedroom feature, Mrs Hyatt added.



Alison Hyatt, left, and Anne Willetts at Haden Hill House

NEWS in brief

900 more foster families needed

AT least 925 new foster families are needed across the West Midlands during 2014, latest figures from the Fostering Network show.

More than 6,650 children live with foster families across the West Midlands, but more foster families are needed to provide homes for teenagers, children with disabilities and siblings.

Go to www.couldyoufostert.org.uk

Uni dance funds for cerebral palsy

A CHARITY has received a donation of hundreds of pounds from the Dance Society of The University of Birmingham.

Cerebral Palsy Midlands supports people with cerebral palsy and related conditions across the West Midlands. It has received £802.87 from the society, raised during the university's charity week.

April dates for the 17th beer festival

THE 17th Stourbridge Beer Festival, a three-day event run by Stourbridge and Halesowen branch of the Campaign for Real Ale, is being held in Stourbridge Town Hall from April 10 to 12.

Flats plan at pub

A PUB will be turned into five flats under new plans. The White Lion Inn in St Peters Road, Netherton, has been empty for more than four years.

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

IMPROVE: make or become better (Oxford English Dictionary).

I only quote this definition because 128,000 households across Dudley are being promised an 'improved' waste collection service over the coming weeks.

Speaking as one of the lucky few who has already benefited from this 'improved' service for a number of months, I can give you a sneak preview of what lies in store.

The boring, old-fashioned service, where the binmen used to collect your bags once a week, will be replaced with an exciting new one where you have to sort your waste into five different containers: a blue bag for paper, a green bag for plastic milk bottles and cans, a giant green bin for grass cuttings, glass bottles in a black box, and a wheelie bin for general waste.

Oh and you will have to pay for your own bin bags from now on, as well, assuming you don't want your wheelie bin to smell like a Victorian cesspit. Bet you can't wait now, can you?

Of course, it is all too easy to have a pop at local councils, which are caught in the middle of a perfect storm between ridiculous EU recycling directives, extortionate landfill taxes, and budget cuts. The councils are between a rock and a hard place, and we should sympathise with their predicament.

But please, please, don't try to spin this as some kind of improvement.

□□□□□

SOME people's belief that the internet is the panacea for all problems knows no bounds.

Take Stephen McLaughlin, for example. He is the father-to-be who thought it would be a good idea to turn the impending birth of his daughter into some kind of online reality show, where followers of his website - NameMyDaughter.com - will decide on what she is called.

It probably comes as little surprise that

Suggestions to date have included Cthulhu, Laquisha, Megatron and Slagathor, with Pond, Salad and Titanium cited as possible second names.

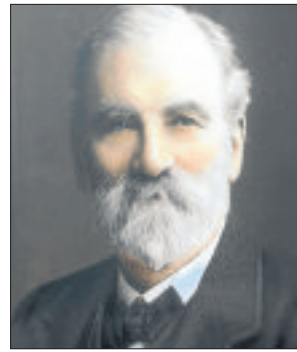
At the moment it looks like the child will be called Amelia All-Spark when she arrives in this world on April 2, so it could have been worse - although I'm torn about whether this sounds more like a failed 1970s disco group or a new brand of environmentally-friendly van.

And think that 20 years down the line, this poor lass is going to be filling out job application forms saddled with this stupid moniker just because her dad thought it would be cool and fun.

Still, perhaps she should be grateful she isn't going to be called System Error. That's what usually comes up on my computer.



Cutting the ribbon at the official opening of the Beatties store extension in Victoria Street, Wolverhampton



Beatties founder James Beattie

We felt like part of the Beatties family

The history of the city's most iconic and successful businesses is being laid bare as **WILL ACKERMANN** explains

"WOLVERHAMPTON is Beatties and Beatties is Wolverhampton."

It is one of the city's most iconic and successful businesses - and now the history of Beatties is being laid bare like never before.

The landmark department store has handed over hundreds of old photographs and documents to the Wolverhampton City Archives, where a selection are going on display.

The exhibition, titled A Better Place to Shop: The Story of Beatties, includes sales catalogues dating back as far as the 1890s, as well as archived newspaper advertisements, photographs and menus from celebration dinners.

Demolished

Each item in the treasure trove of documents and artefacts is accompanied by an explanatory note, outlining its place in the company's 136-year history.

Organiser Karen Davies, the City Archives' cataloguing archivist, who worked at the store as a sales consultant for five years until 2000, said: "If you ask anyone living in Wolverhampton and beyond, everyone knows Beatties."

"When I worked there people used to say they only came to Wolverhampton to shop at Beatties. It was like the Harrods of Wolverhampton. The purpose of this exhibition is to make the public aware just how important Beatties was to the retail history of the city."

The company was founded in Victoria Street by local draper and businessman James Beattie. It opened in 1877, when it was called the Victoria Draper Supply Store. By 1895, the firm employed 40 members of staff and was enjoying an annual turnover of £30,000.



Grand entrance - the extended frontage of the store in the 1930s



Glamour by Dolores advert in the 1950s

But fortunes took a turn for the worse when, only a year later, a huge fire forced it to be demolished and rebuilt.

The blaze also destroyed much of the store's stock. What remained had to be sold to buy more items to refill the shelves. Fortunately, the owners recovered from the potentially devastating incident, and by the turn of the century they were back on their feet.

But then, in 1912, a second fire struck, prompting another rebuild, which included changing the shop facade for the first time since the store had first opened 35 years earlier.

An extension was then built leading



Sales brochure from 1960s

out into Darlington Street in the 1930s. At the same time as the cosmetic and structural changes were taking place, management were making alterations on the operational side of the business.

During the early 1920s, the company adopted limited liability, becoming James Beattie Ltd, making it an entity of its own in the eyes of the law for the first time. In 1964, the firm became a Public Limited Company, James Beattie PLC, meaning customers could now buy its shares on the stock market.

Perhaps the most significant moment in the company's history, however, came in 2005, when the firm was taken over by

department store chain House of Fraser. It had been an independent family-run business since its inception, so the move sparked outrage among many workers.

Ninety-four-year-old Mary Boddy, who was the company's catering manager for 35 years until retiring in 1980, was less than impressed at the time. She organised for two coachloads of Beatties employees from various branches to head down to London for a protest.

But now she is more than happy with the way her former workplace is run, and says it has retained everything that always made it so special.

Mrs Boddy, who worked under James Beattie Junior, known to employees as Jimmy, said: "To me, Wolverhampton is Beatties and Beatties is Wolverhampton. "It was absolutely wonderful to work there. I'd go back tomorrow if Jimmy Beattie was still alive."

Wonderful

"He used to come around the store every morning with his little black book in his pocket. He was a real gentleman, but if you saw that black book you thought, 'Oh no.'"

"Many times I was called in to his office. I was a cheeky thing," Mrs Boddy, of Finchfield, Wolverhampton, remembers how everyone working for Beatties felt 'part of the same family', and such is their bond that she still organises monthly meetings for former staff.

She is also one of those to have donated personal items to House of Fraser for its archives, which it handed to Wolverhampton City Archives in July.

The exhibition has been divided into four glass cabinet displays, each chronicling a different period in the company's history, plus four wall displays featuring pictures of the Beatties family and of the company at key moments in its past.

Beatties also opened branches in Solihull, Birkenhead, Aylesbury, Birmingham, Dudley, and Northampton, the latter three of which have since closed.

The exhibition will run until March 29.

THROUGH THE YEARS

1984

HURRICANE force winds of up to 80mph wrought havoc to the West Midlands. The roof of some maisonettes in the Blakenhall area of Wolverhampton was blown across a road minutes before dozens of schoolchildren passed by. The roof of a grocery shop in Wolverhampton's Cannock Road also fell onto a car, but the couple inside were able to clamber out.

SOARING tea prices sparked a wave of panic buying across the West Midlands, with fears that supplies could run out if calm did not return to the market. Many supermarkets introduced tea rationing after the Indian government announced new export restrictions. Phil Parkes, who owned W T M Snape tea merchants in Queen Street, Wolverhampton, said there had been customers queuing outside.

1994

THE new Bishop of Wolverhampton sparked a political storm saying he did not believe Government minister Tim Yeo should have resigned over his adultery. Rt Rev Michael Bourke said: "Everyone knows politics is not a vicarage tea party. We have always had adulterous rulers and leaders." But chairman of Wolverhampton South West Conservative Association, Councillor Mrs Roseanne Williams, was outraged saying the comments were unbecoming of a bishop.

MOURNERS packed into St Peter's Collegiate Church in Wolverhampton for the funeral of Leslie Stallard, the chairman of the Stars news shops chain. The 78-year-old had died following a stroke. He had spent 65 years with Midland News Association, the parent company of the Express & Star.

2004

HAROLD Shipman died after hanging himself with his bed sheets in his prison cell.

Shipman, Britain's most prolific serial killer, is thought to have been responsible for more than 215 murders. The former GP was serving a life sentence at Wakefield Prison following his conviction of murdering 15 patients.

VIEWS you would be unlikely to see in a guide book were set to feature in a calendar depicting a town's biggest eyesores. Stourbridge Township Council, an independent pressure group, was seeking to publish a calendar depicting the town's biggest eyesores in an attempt to shame Dudley Council to spruce up rundown areas. The group was seeking nominations for sights which could appear on the calendar, with derelict properties and a dingy subway among those being considered.

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LETTERS

Why waste £6.7m on Marketplace when streets are in a poor state?

I HAVE lived in Kingswinford for 27 years and have been a rates/council tax payer in Dudley Council area for 37 years and have lived in the Dudley area for 54 years.

During that time, I have witnessed the sad decline of a once really nice town into the dreadful, decrepid, run-down ruin of a town, which it now is.

I have in recent years, been a keen responder to 'The Big Question' for what it is worth, I have never had any feed back from the council to my comments and suggestions, and I am quite sure that I am not alone in that. If Council members are going to ignore residents' responses to 'The Big Question', why bother having it in the first place?

I have contacted the council on several occasions in recent

years, principally concerning the filthy state of our roads, streets and pavements, and also the appalling state of disrepair of roads, streets and highways in the borough.

I have been prompted to write to you now following receipt of this week's copy of the Dudley Chronicle. On the front page thereof, there are 2 articles, one concerning the revamp of Dudley Marketplace and the other concerning residents response to 'The Big Question' and information concerning budget cuts already planned by council members.

They have apparently agreed to spend £6.7 million on the revamp of the Marketplace. £6.7MILLION!!!!!! Why? It is not the most thriving of markets, and I doubt very much

that the expenditure will suddenly attract new shoppers in any great numbers.

Dudley town centre is virtually dead on it's feet and has been for many years. Spending £6.7m on the marketplace, money which you cannot afford, will not help one iota.

Whilst pointlessly spending £6.7m on the Marketplace, the council propose cutting back on street cleansing and expect local residents to do the job instead. All very well and to be applauded in small cul-de-sac or street communities but are we seriously expected to clean up High Street and Market Street in Kingswinford after a Friday or Saturday night?

I don't suppose any members of the council will be out cleaning up vomit, broken beer bottles and food detritus. The cleanliness of our streets, is already a disgrace, this proposal will just make the present situation virtually intolerable.

Another proposal noted, is the cutting back of Green Bin collections, generating a colossal saving of £100,000 per annum! £100,000 against required savings of £25.8 million, really?

MR N M HODKINSON
Cranham Drive
Kingswinford

Gambling is invading our homes

THE government have stamped down on tobacco companies in many ways to try to stop people getting addicted to smoking. They have tried many things to stop addictive drinking of alcohol. Now people are encouraged to bet, mostly those who least can afford it. They don't even have to leave their own armchair.

After midnight there is live roulette on TV. Place ten pound and receive 35 pounds extra to bet on card games or bingo.

These things should not be allowed inside the house. There are places to go if you want to gamble, but of course to put it on TV or on line, and people who have little think they may win a few pounds.

Gambling is the most dangerous of addictions - it can destroy the person and whole families. Why is it allowed? There is only one winner in gambling - keep it out of the home.

N D CADDICK
Coseley

LETTERS

to the Editor

POST

Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle
Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton
WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Floods mean we must rethink energy policies

A RECURRENCE of the floods over Christmas and New Year may eventually price out home insurance for many people in threatened areas. The event has mystified many others.

The Prime Minister suspects that it may be connected to climate change. The Chancellor plans to cut funding for the Environment Agency. The weather forecasters blame it on the position of the jet stream winds but never question why they've shifted. Extreme weather events all round the world are happening more regularly, not just once in a generation but every few years.

The Arctic ice cap has shrunk and vast areas may become ice-free in the summer months within 30 years. Governments don't worry about this as it may be someone else's problem.

Oil giants and mining companies see this as an opportunity to exploit the resources of the Arctic. How would they handle an oil spill in that area? They don't have answers.

We urgently need to move to renewable sources of energy.

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NEWS

Mother and daughter keeper it in the family



Jess Jones, following in her mother Tracey's footsteps as a keeper

Jess's mother Tracey at the zoo in the 1980s

IT'S like mother, like daughter for animal-mad Tracey and Jess Jones.

Trainee keeper Jess, aged 20, has just started an apprenticeship at Dudley Zoo – three decades after her mother Tracey worked at the zoo.

Jess, from West Bromwich, who is currently based on the farm at the popular tourist attraction, said: "It was mum's stories that inspired me to go into the same career. I loved listening to her tales when I was growing up and I'm as animal mad as she is, so it was the obvious choice for me."

Hard work paved the way for both Jess and Tracey getting their dream jobs at the zoo.

Tracey joined an apprentice scheme after leaving school and gained a keeper job a few months later, while

Jess has been volunteering on site for more than two years.

She juggled an Animal Care course at Rodbaston College with working in the attraction's Discovery Centre, as well as giving her time on the ungulate, farm and bird sections at weekends and during holidays.

Proud

Tracey, aged 48, who worked as a keeper in the 1980s, said: "I'm so proud of Jess. She's worked hard to get this. She was brought up with my zoo stories. After I left to start a family, I continued to take the children to the zoo every year, just as I had visited when I was growing up."

"I used to nag my parents to take me every Easter and when I was old enough I came on my own, so working at Dudley Zoo was a dream come true

for me. I've seen the zoo change so much; the redesign of the enclosures is amazing. They are all so much better than they were in my day."

Tracey – then Miss Ford – worked on the north of the zoo site, caring for giraffes, tapirs, guanaco, small primates and kangaroos. Tracey, now a care worker, added: "I loved every second working at Dudley Zoo and I know Jess will too."

Jess said: "I was so happy when I got the call to offer me a job. It's the best start to 2014 I could ever have hoped for."

Dudley Zoo chief executive Peter Suddock said: "Jess worked extremely hard to attain her apprenticeship and showed determination, dedication and diligence. She knows from her mum that it's an immensely rewarding job and we wish her well."

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NEWS

City has no option other than paying equality bill

Panto is bear necessity



Panto fun with, back from left, Lynda Dunn, John Pemberton, Ray Chapman, Bill Speake, Tyrone Howell with the three bears, Kirsty Aldridge and Beth Hemmings

FAMILY favourite Goldilocks and the Three Bears will be given a new twist by members of Halesowen-based Startime Variety who will present the popular pantomime from January 29 until February 1.

They will take to the stage in both evening performances and a Saturday matinee in three pantomime at the Cornbow Hall.

Evening performances start at 7.15pm and the Saturday matinee on February 1 will be at 2.15pm.

To book tickets call 07901 055685.

EDGBASTON'S MP has said she is 'enormously sad' that the country's biggest local authority is considering selling land and property to help pay a £1 billion bill for settling equal pay cases.

Birmingham City Council has agreed settlements with female staff, including home care workers and school cooks, who were paid less than men for work of equal value.

Some men have also been included in the payouts, while other claims are still being submitted.

There has been speculation that landmark buildings such as the NEC could be sold - however, council sources said this was not specifically linked to the equal pay settlements.

Services

Gisela Stuart, MP for Birmingham Edgbaston, said: "I am enormously sad that we ended up in this position. But if you were the leader of Birmingham City Council at this point, you have inherited the legacy of a huge legal bill, you are facing a situation where some of your basic services can no longer be delivered because of the funding formula - what is the only thing you can do? I think, with a very heavy heart, you face up to the fact that you are caught between a rock and a hard place and you get the best deal to settle what was a liability that should not have occurred."

"The previous Tory-led council could have settled. They kept challenging the court decisions time and time again. However, I think it is the right thing for the current council to face up to the problem, do the right thing, and get Birmingham back on a viable and financially-sustainable basis."

The Department for Communities and Local Government will not allow the city council to borrow more money.

A council statement said the city had already sold assets to the value of £76 million over the past two years. It added: "The review of the NEC group, however, is prompted by the need to invest and diversify the business to enable its amazing success to be a platform for international expansion and growth."

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NEWS

Hundreds at funeral of Albion president

WEST BROMWICH Albion's Club President and former chairman John Silk was laid to rest yesterday as hundreds turned out for his funeral.

Figures from the sporting world joined family members and friends to pay tribute to Mr Silk who passed away on New Year's Eve following a short illness. He was aged 89.

His funeral took place this morning at All Saints Church, All Saints Way, West Bromwich on Wednesday.

Mr Silk has been hailed for steadying the club after joining it when it was going through a tough period, both on and off the pitch.

He stepped down as chairman at the end of the 1991/92 campaign and was replaced by Trevor Summers, becoming club president in 2003.

Among those at the service were former Baggies players Alistair Robertson and Brendon Batson.

Mr Silk, who founded law firm Silks Solicitors in 1953, was appointed as a director in 1984 before serving as chairman between 1988 and 1992. He succeeded Sir Bert Millichip as club president in 2003.

He ran engineering firms Hampson Industries and Hill & Smith after the death of brother Tom and his wife in a plane crash in 1980.

Mr Silk, who is survived by wife Jean and children Karen and Mark, followed his brother onto the board of Albion.

Nursery is home and dry after £750k sewer work

EVEN the wheelie bins used to float around on the driveway of a village day care nursery – while staff had to wade through flood water to ferry children to and from their parents' cars.

But now Ann Vale, owner of the Buttercups nursery in Romsley, near Halesowen, has her fingers crossed that £750,000 worth of work aimed at solving the flooding will keep her young clients and staff dry.

Horrendous

Severn Trent Water recently finished the mammoth task of enlarging sewer pipes to stop the flooding problems that plagued the St Kenelm's Road area of Romsley for years.

Mrs Vale, who also lives on the premises of the nursery, said: "It's been horrendous here in the past. We'd sometimes have six to eight inches of water pouring down the drive. My husband, Tony, and I would have to carry children from the porch up the drive to their parents' cars."

"The soakaway would be bubbling away and sometimes the four great big

wheelie bins, would be floating and tipping over and the manhole covers would also float off. The water never came into the nursery or our home. But that's only because I'd be there sweeping it away."

Chris Kelsey, Severn Trent Water's programme manager, said: "Unfortunately a number of houses on St Kenelm's Road and the road itself were prone to flooding."

"The problem was that the sewers just weren't big enough to cope when there was a lot of rain. By making the sewer pipes larger we've made sure they're less likely to overflow when there's wet weather."

Mrs Vale said it was a "relief" that the work was now completed.



Councillors Chris Tranter and Barbara Price at the refurbished First World War memorial at St Giles Church, in Church Road, Rowley Regis

More work is due at memorial

A REFURBISHED war memorial in Rowley Regis may undergo more work in preparation for the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War.

The large stone memorial in the grounds of St Giles Church in Church Road is engraved with the names of 98 men from Rowley village who died during the First World War.

Carved

Many names had worn away but stone masons have carved out the names around the base of the monument as part of a £30,000 project.

Councillor Chris Tranter said: "This is the final piece of the puzzle for the memorial and will help us commemorate the centennial of the conflict. A lot of work has gone into researching the names around the pillar and the feedback we have had from people so far has been really good."

Much of the research was completed by Richard Warby, who worked with his late father Malcolm.

M5 wrong way driver is given a court date



Accused – Katy Homer

A WOMAN from Halesowen accused of driving the wrong way along the M5 while over the limit has appeared in court.

Katy Homer, aged 26, is charged with two offences – one of drink-driving and one of dangerous driving. It is alleged she drove the wrong way on the M5 at junction one, in West Bromwich, on December 4. She is also accused of being double the legal limit.

Homer, of Clent View Road, Colley Gate, is charged with having 79 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath. The legal alcohol limit is 35 microgrammes.

She appeared at Sandwell Magistrates Court and the case was adjourned to a plea and case management hearing at Wolverhampton Crown Court on April 3. She entered no plea to either offence. Homer spoke only to confirm her name and address. Magistrates declined jurisdiction and she was released on bail.

Arrest after flat death

A MAN has been arrested on suspicion of murder after a 51-year-old woman was found dead in a Birmingham tower block. Police were called to the flat in Century Tower, Dollery Drive, on Tuesday. Emergency services were sent to the flat in the Edgbaston, where the woman was pronounced dead. On Tuesday night a 39-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of her murder.

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NEWS

Swinging hot as Salsa set to spice things up for dancers in venues



Let's salsa! Tutor Ryan Mellis with Abbey Bloxham and fellow dancers, from left, Denise Broadhurst and Gail Smith and John and Dianne Leighton at the Bank bar and lounge in Wolverhampton Road, Cannock

FROM complete beginners to twinkle-toed enthusiasts, dancers are being encouraged to step into the new year by taking up salsa classes.

The fun social dance classes are being run across the Black Country and Staffordshire to get people exercising with a smile on their face.

Salsa dance teacher Ryan Mellis is now running the sessions at nightspots in Cannock and Wolverhampton and he is planning to expand this further to

by Simon Stone

locations in West Bromwich, Rowley Regis and Smethwick over the coming months. The 49-year-old from West Bromwich said the aim is for people of all abilities to enjoy themselves in a social setting.

"You don't have to be anything like Strictly," he said.

"It is basically for people to come out, have a nice social evening and enjoy dance at the same time.

"A lot of people have heard about salsa but don't know where to find it.

We are trying to bring it to a lot more local people and make it more accessible."

Sessions are held at Walkabout, in Queen Street, Wolverhampton, on Mondays and Tuesdays and Mojito Bar in Bridge Street, Bridgtown, in Cannock, on Wednesdays.

More recently a new class has been launched at the Bank bar and lounge in Wolverhampton Road on Sundays.

There is a session for beginners at 7.30pm, then improvers at 8.30pm followed by a social dance from 9.30pm. It costs £5 to attend, call 07961 514074.

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NEWS

Unsung heroes are sought



Mayor of Dudley Councillor Alan Finch, will choose people or groups he feels have stood out then the public can vote

NOMINATIONS are sought for awards that honour those people who work tirelessly in their communities in one or more of the six categories.

Dudley Council has teamed up with Cougar Monitoring who are hosting the prestigious search, and other local businesses have stepped forward to support the awards by sponsoring each of the six categories.

This year a new business category has been added to celebrate the work of local firms who go above and beyond in their area, or who have shown great innovation.

The Mike Holder award for business is named after one of the founders of Cougar Monitoring, the sponsors of the award. Mr Holder was also president of the Black Country Chamber for three years and was well known for his work in championing local Black Country businesses.

The award will join the other five categories, which are also named after

borough greats, including Duncan Edwards award for sport, sponsored by Sanders & Co Solicitors, the Cedric Hardwicke award for arts sponsored by Birmingham Metropolitan College, the Frank Foley award for community spirit sponsored by Castle & Crystal Credit Union, the Thomas Attwood award for education which is sponsored by Computeach and the William Shenstone award for environment, sponsored by Marketing Force.

Vote

There is also a seventh trophy, the Mayor's Award, which will be decided by a public vote next month.

Mayor Councillor Alan Finch will choose four people or groups he feels have stood out to him during his civic engagements so far. The public will then have the chance to vote online for the winner. Nominations cannot be put forward for this particular award. A judging panel will decide the other six.

Nominations for this year's awards are open until February 17.

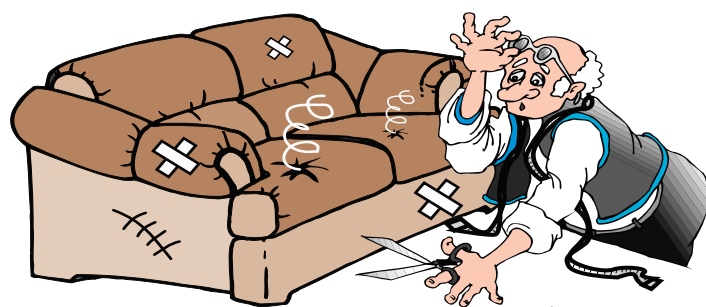
Councillor Alan Finch, Mayor of Dudley, said: "The Mayor's Civic Awards is a fantastic opportunity to highlight the work of the people who work tirelessly in their communities for the good of the borough."

"Every year we are reminded of the hugely important work these people do, and I hope we can go some way to saying thank you to them this year through these awards."

The winners and runners-up will be presented with their prize – a trophy and a certificate by the Mayor of Dudley at a civic ceremony in April.

People can nominate online at www.dudley.gov.uk/civicawards or can pick up a nomination form from libraries and leisure centres from early next week. Or contact communications and public affairs on 01384 817449 for a form. Completed forms should be sent to Mayor's Civic Awards nominations, communications and public affairs, Dudley Council, FREEPOST MID22308, Dudley, DY1 1BR by February 17.

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NEWS

Hospitals trust pays out more than £8m

ALMOST £30 million in compensation was paid out by hospitals in the Black Country and Staffordshire last year, figures reveal.

More than £8.5m came from the trust that runs Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital – the highest in the West Midlands over the last financial year. Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust paid almost £6.4m.

Negligence

The Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust handed out £8,510,851 in 2012/13 – of which £8,181,907 was for negligence claims. The remainder was spent on non-clinical claims.

The total figure was up by 22 per cent from £6,967,223 the previous year.

Dudley Group chief executive Paula Clark said: "We take all claims received against the trust very seriously and thoroughly investigate these in conjunction with the NHS Litigation Authority Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts, which covers all of our claims, to ensure lessons are learned."

"The amount of compensation paid out on behalf of the trust in 2012/13 included settlement of some claims raised in previous years as far back as 1996. The figure has risen because the NHSLA has settled more cases on our behalf relating to claims going back a number of years."

'Scumbags' who terrorised women are put behind bars

Mothers get the fitness buggy



Mothers get into shape for the new year with the new Buggy Fit outdoor exercise class. MOTHERS are getting the fitness bug with Buggy Fit at Warley Woods.

The exercise sessions involve heading out with child and pram, and making them part of the exercise.

A twice-weekly class has been taking place in Warley Woods park and organisers are appealing for new members to join.

Kathy Lamb, herself a mother of two and also a pilates instructor, helps to look after the children while she tells those taking part what to do. She said: "It's just so much fun and it's lovely being outside. We do a

mixture of cardiovascular activity, getting the heart rate up, and resistance to get the muscles stronger.

"There's a social aspect too because we use the cafe at Warley Woods. It's good for post-natal depression as well, as exercise and being outdoors is the best thing, rather than taking pills," her's not great.

The 48-year-old, from Barclay Road next to the park, said anyone can take part regardless of fitness levels. Contact kathy@beyondthebumpfitness.co.uk or call 07730 433697.

A HEARTBROKEN widow has branded the masked raiders who stole her late husband's irreplaceable watch during a horrifying night-time raid on her home as scum – as one of the gang began a long spell behind bars.

As Ross Underwood was jailed for seven years and three months, his 53-year-old victim declared: "They are scumbags without morals."

The mother-of-two told how since the robbery she is scared to go out and then scared to come home.

She said: "No woman should have to live in fear in her own house through no fault of her own. I sleep with a knife under the bed."

"I know I am lucky not to have been badly hurt physically but this has done terrible damage to me mentally. It will be with me for the rest of my life."

Dragged

Underwood was sentenced alongside Richard Howell, 37, who joined him on three appalling robberies – although not at the Woodsetton home of the widow. He was jailed for six years.

The pair dragged another woman from her £22,000 Audi TT in front of her 13-year-old daughter, at the Orbital Retail Park in Cannock at around 11am on August 13, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The next night the pair struck with another crook at the Spar in Lapwood Avenue, Kingswinford, armed with a crowbar, and filled bins with £8,000 worth of cigarettes after threatening women staff.

Howell – who was only freed from jail three months earlier – and Underwood

by Simon Stone

then stole £3,000 cigarettes and cash from the Co-op in Dudley Road West, Tividale. Six days later, 28-year-old Underwood and two others barged into the home of the widow.

The grandmother was alone watching TV in bed when the masked men armed with a crowbar charged into the room.

Mr Hugh O'Brien Quinn, prosecuting, said: "They snatched her mobile phone and she was pushed back when she tried to get out of bed."

The raiders took the £10,000 gold Swiss Ebel watch and other jewellery.

Underwood and Howell were arrested in Gornal the following day after being linked to the stolen Audi discovered in a lock-up garage in Rifle Street, Coseley.

Howell, of Carder Crescent, Bilston, and Underwood, of Damson Wharf, Tipton, both admitted conspiracy to rob.



Robber – Ross Underwood



Jailed – Richard Howell

Pervert teacher preyed on pupils

A RETIRED teacher and former vicar who indecently assaulted boys at a boarding school during the 1960s and 70s has avoided an immediate prison sentence.

Peter Dunbar, of Bridgehouse Gate in North Yorkshire, admitted six counts of indecent assault against two boys at Blue Coat School on Somerset Road in Edgaston when they were aged between 10 and 13.

The 67-year-old was handed two 10-month prison terms suspended for 18 months, when he appeared at Birmingham Crown Court on Monday.

He was arrested at his home in North Yorkshire in March last year after one of the victims broke silence over the abuse and told police in November 2012.

Police have praised victims for coming forward and now urge any other victims of the pervert to get in touch.

PC Nadia Alazzawi, from the West Midlands Police's Public Protection Unit, said: "Dunbar's victims have been haunted by what happened to them for many decades and have had to live for years with the impact of his actions."

"Thankfully they had the courage to eventually tell someone and now they've got the justice they deserve, knowing Dunbar has been held accountable for what he did to them."

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More time for homes

OWNERS of a manufacturing firm, which has been in business for more than 20 years, have seen planning permission extended to eventually turn their site into homes.

Sentinel Plastics, in Cradley Heath, makes plastics for industry and has been boosted by an increase in the numbers of wind turbines in recent years.

Lee Houghton, who runs the Wrights Lane company, has won an extension of time for his planning permission to turn the site into 13 homes.

The proposal was approved by Sandwell Council planning officers using delegated powers.

Rail pressure group steam ahead after major victory

A RAIL pressure group is steam- ing ahead with plans to step up its campaign for better train services this year.

The Stourbridge Line User Group (SLUG) - flushed with success after a 'notable' victory this year - has set out its wish list for 2014.

During 2013, the group's long-running campaign for the reintroduction of regular trains to Hartlebury, near Kidderminster, came to fruition.

Top of the list for the coming year are a Saturday evening train from London Marylebone to Stourbridge, a new station building at Kidderminster and better con-

nections to and from the Stourbridge Town shuttle service.

SLUG chairman Rob Hebron said: "2013 was a year of achievement, notably the reintroduction of regular trains to Hartlebury."

Perseverance

"Though we worked hard throughout the year, that result was the culmination of several years' liaison and perseverance. We have set the stage for 2014 and we will now concentrate on trying to get evening and Sunday trains to call at Hartlebury."

"There is a long way to go but I believe SLUG can persuade train operators London Midland and Chiltern Railways to

focus on Stourbridge line stations and improvements which can maximise patronage."

Mr Hebron added: "The stakeholders are all travelling in the same direction and passengers are feeling the benefit of decisions taken on the advice of focus groups."

"However, there is a limit to what train operators can do without the support of the County Council Transport Departments and Network Rail. It comes down to who will fund infrastructure improvements."

"The Stourbridge line is still a relatively slow line for the length of its route. I believe that a speedier end-to-end journey will attract even more customers."

Family pay tribute to victim of Christmas Day accident

TRIBUTES have been paid to a woman who died two days after being discharged from hospital following a head-on car crash on Christmas Day.

Michelle Clifton, aged 41, was discharged after being treated in hospital for a broken arm and bruising following the crash near Clent, Stourbridge.

She collapsed and died at home on December 27.

Her family said she had she had finished a shift at work and was travelling back to spend the day with her family when the accident happened.

Miss Clifton, of Meadow Sweet Court, Malvern, was driving a blue Ford Fiesta when the accident happened on the A450 Worcester Road close to Barnett Hill garden centre.

Her car crashed with a silver Ford Focus driven by a man, aged 26, from Bilston at about 2.40pm on December 25.

In a statement her family said she was 'loving and caring woman and always had a smile on her face, making everyone laugh'. Her sister Karen Brimmell added: "We are absolutely devastated and in total shock that Michelle has been taken away from us at such a young age."

Miss Clifton was born and brought up in Malvern and her three brothers and sister still live in the town. She worked at Court House Nursing Home in Malvern.

Her partner of seven years, Michelle Oakley, said: "Shelly was the youngest of five siblings and was a loving auntie to 13 nieces and nephews and great auntie to two."

"Shelly was a fun and entertaining character who would always put a smile on your face with her wacky impersonations, silly voices and her crazy dancing."

Cone crafts



Sean Counley and Sarah Jones at the Red House Glass Cone WORKSHOPS from pottery and glass bead making to engraving and oil painting are on offer at the Red House Glass Cone.

Studio artists from the made @ the cone collective have launched a programme of classes for the new year at the attraction in Wordsley.

Some of the classes which run throughout January and February are one-off taster events while others are regular sessions which build on techniques learnt week by week.

The studio artists who make and sell their own designs from the site are also experienced arts tutors. Many of them run drop-in activities for children and have-a-go sessions.

Teens get tasters to help decide on career

TEENAGERS who are not sure what they want to do with their future are being urged to sign up for a college programme giving them a taste of different careers to help them decide.

Birmingham Metropolitan College is urging 16 to 18-year-olds to join its Get Working programme - helping them choose a career, apply for jobs, be more confident at interviews and gain work experience.

Free

Free workshops and tasters in a variety of subjects are on offer including business administration, computing and gaming, construction, fashion and retail, music, film and theatre. The workshops and tasters also cover food and hospitality, gardening, manufacturing, sport and fitness and travel and tourism.

Organisers say there are regular start dates at various campuses in Birmingham, Brierley Hill and Kidderminster.

Linda Round, executive director for economic development, employment and community, said: "We've got the perfect mix of support covering a range of sectors for young people aged between 16 and 18, who are out of work or have just left school and have no idea which direction to take or how to get there. For a lot of young people, it's about building their confidence and giving the right advice."

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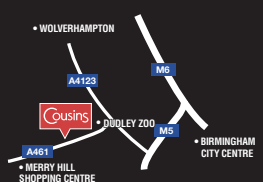
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TV show hopefuls aimed for a Peaky performance



The long queue for auditions for roles in hit TV drama Peaky Blinders held at the Minerva Works in Birmingham

THE likely lads came in their droves in the hope of winning a part in the next series of Peaky Blinders, the hit TV show about Brummie gangs between the wars.

And it was a blinder of an audition with at least 1,000 young men turning up to audition for a part in the gritty drama, in a queue snaking for up to half a mile, starting at least three hours before the 11am opening.

Vivid Projects, which hosted the auditions for the BBC drama, had appealed for local lads after the first series, although a huge success, received criticism that some of the Brummie accents were a 'bit dodgy'.

And that's exactly what they got - real Brummies, and many young men from the Black Country too. There were so many that they had to hold the auditions in groups of 10.

Those fitting the criteria - white aged between 13 and 19 or mixed-race 15 to 17 - had their photographs taken and were told they would be contacted if they got a part.

First in the line that stretched from the Minerva Works in Fazeley Street, Birmingham, was 17-year-old Nathan Beardsmore, from Glyn Farm Road, Quinton.

Shivering in the morning chill, Nathan, who is studying drama at King Edward VI Sixth Form College, Stourbridge, said: "Peaky Blinders was a local production. It put Birmingham on the map."

Alex Parkinson, 20, of Stamford Road, Ambicote, and Dylan Allison, 17, of Bond Street, Blackheath, warmed themselves up on the pavement by practising dramatic speeches.

Alex, who was 65th in the queue, delivered a Macbeth monologue, while Dylan went for a speech from Oedipus.



In the queue Alex Parkinson, left, and Dylan Allison

Oliver Baggies a big surprise to be mascot

A YOUNG Baggies fan will get the chance to walk out on the hallowed turf of Wembley Stadium as a mascot at this year's FA Cup semi final.

West Bromwich Albion was chosen by the Football Association to run a competition at the Crystal Palace FA Cup tie at The Hawthorns. All junior fans present stood a chance of winning - and season ticket holder Oliver Cash, aged 11, was the lucky winner.

Mother Lisa Cash, 46, also a season ticket holder, said: "I already knew but Oliver did not know." Pitch-side announcer Russ Morris revealed the winner at half time and Oliver, a year seven pupil at Ellowes Hall Sports College, was allowed on to the pitch.

Mrs Cash, who works for Dudley Council and lives in Milking Bank, Dudley, added: "He was absolutely speechless. He is absolutely delighted and over the moon."



Oliver Cash, aged 11, chatting with Albion announcer Russ Morris

Front line services will not be hit, vow chiefs

COUNCIL chiefs have vowed to protect front line services as reports are drawn up to see where the axe will fall as it battles to make millions of pounds of budget cuts.

Sandwell Council must save £22.2m in the next financial year due to Government cuts.

A rise in council tax is one area which could hit residents.

The authority has not made a decision as to whether the tax rate will be frozen for the next financial year.

Finance boss Councillor Steve Eling said the authority was waiting on the Government to announce what cap

by Adam Grinsell

they will place before making a decision on whether to freeze tax for the fourth year running, with an announcement expected next month.

Bosses are currently factoring a two per cent increase in council tax into their plans for the following two financial years, as they are unsure yet whether incentives will be offered for them to freeze it.

In the past few years councils have been offered one-off grants in return for a freeze to council tax.

Councillor Eling said: "For the next two financial years we have built in a provisional two per cent rise because we are working on the basis that they

might not be providing any future freeze grants."

The annual announcement of how much Sandwell Council would be getting in grants from the Government was made last month, and is around £200,000 worse than expected - leaving a hole of more than £20m.

But chiefs have promised they will do everything they can to protect frontline services, including weekly bin collections.

Councillor Eling added: "The £100m cuts by 2017 is going to happen, and it could potentially be worse than that with inflationary pressures as well."

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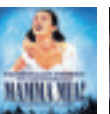
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NEWS

Let the dog take you for a run in Canicross fitness



Physical activity activator Eilish O'Callaghan gets into shape with 'Josie' the Spaniel at Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge

A FITNESS class with a difference is being launched with man's best friend encouraged to take part in training sessions.

Owners can take along their dogs for Canicross, which is a popular new version of cross country running.

The new sessions began this week Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge and the next session is this Sunday from 8.45am to 9.30am.

Runners and walkers typically wear a waist belt with the dog attached to a

bungee, however, a collar and lead can also be used.

Anyone over eight years old can join the doggie boot camp, together with any breed of dog over a year old.

Workout

Each session will involve 45 minutes of jogging, walking and exercises.

Canicross is said to provide a physical workout for dogs and the use of directional commands will help them to learn to use their brains and build up their confidence.

Councillor Stuart Turner, council

cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "The council offers our residents lots of great ways to get active and keep fit in parks, green spaces and leisure centres. There are activities available to suit people of all ages and abilities as we look to support everyone to lead healthy lifestyles."

Information can be found at Mary Stevens Park activity centre or by calling 01384 813963.

The park hosts a range of classes and sessions including nordic walking, cardio tennis, circuits, family football and Zumba.

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We're all prone to make New Year resolutions – eating healthily, walking more and shedding a few pounds to name a few. Many of those intentions involve lifestyle decisions and seizing the opportunity for change. A recent Radio 4 broadcast explored the view of 'Your whole life is lived through your teeth'. The concept for many is true and none more so for the effervescent Ann Skitt of Willenhall, who made a New Year resolution to ditch her old, troublesome dentures and get a brand new smile.

Is this the right time for you to do the same?

New Year...new smile

ANN Skitt retrieves her bike from the garage, deftly fixes a slipped chain, and is ready "to go anywhere."

By her own confession it's an antique with a capacious, black leather-cloth saddlebag (no longer manufactured) and just three Sturmey-Archer gears. For nearly 20 years it's been a faithful companion and her primary source of transport. Her enthusiasm to get on the saddle belies her years. "I don't drive, but cycle everywhere I can," she says.

A young-at-heart 74-year-old, she oozes charisma and charm, still goes to the gym "when she needs to shed a few pounds" and is the life and soul of the party at her local Young At Heart Club where she is a volunteer worker.

"I retired at 60, but I always have to be doing something. The club has some elderly people who never really see anyone from week to week and I love helping. We do lunches and have a game of bingo and a laugh," she adds.

She admits to constantly making choices to live life to the limit and indulging herself as popular hairdressers'

model at Wolverhampton's award-winning Ultimate Hairdressing salon whenever she fancies a new look.

"I love meeting the students and they treat me lovely," she says.

It's hard to imagine that his retired assembly worker, who completed 45 years' service at Willenhall's famous Josiah Parkes & Sons Lock manufacturers, could ever be knocked back. But failing teeth "became an embarrassment," she recalls.

Plucked up the courage

"My remaining bottom teeth were terribly discoloured and my partial lower denture was unstable. You could never eat anything like nuts and I was always so conscious of the way they looked. If I cooked lamb chops or a steak I'd struggle to eat it – it would take me ages, but I can eat anything now," she says with a smile.

Ann called time on her long-standing dental problems after reading an article in her local newspaper about Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC108353 and his work as principal at the Denture Clinic in North Street, Dudley.

"I had a couple of articles and kept them for nearly a year before I plucked up the courage to see Steve.

I knew exactly what I wanted and was happy to put up with a bit of discomfort to get there," she says.

With four implants in her upper and four in the lower jaw to secure implant-retained over-dentures, Ann now has a perfect smile and functional teeth.

"I love my teeth and they have given me so much more confidence. You don't realise how having bad teeth affect until you have treatment like this and you get the confidence back. The whole shape of my mouth has changed."

"I told Steve I didn't want teeth like Cilla Black or Stacey Solomon, they would not look good on someone my age," she adds.

Husband Brian is full of praise – "It's taken years off her and the teeth are just perfect for her."

Her teeth were hand-crafted on the premises at the Denture Clinic and implant surgery was carried out by Jonathon Pugh BDS MSc (Implant Dentistry), principal of Total Implant Solutions in Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton.

A long-standing working relationship between Jon and Steve has fused two dental disciplines which continues to enjoy excellent clinical outcomes.

"Both Steve and Jon were lovely with me. I've told all my friends they need to see them too," says Ann.

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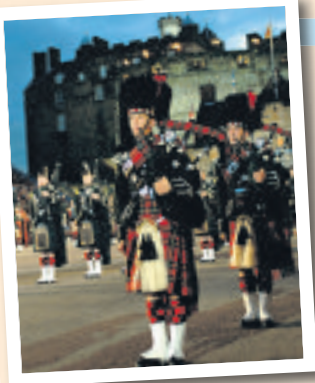
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The Edinburgh Military Tattoo, Rail and Steam

Four days departing August 8

Pick of the week



★ **PRICE FROM £299**

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo will once again unite performers from four continents to host one of the most spectacular shows in the world.

It's a colourful kaleidoscope of music, dance, and displays, set against the incomparable backdrop of Edinburgh Castle and includes the Massed Pipes and Drums, Military Bands, display teams and dancers, and of course the notes of the Lone Piper from high on the castle ramparts.

The return train journey from Bo'ness follows the shores of the Firth of Forth before climbing a tree-lined gradient with spectacular views and continues through the woodlands of Birkhill, then crosses the impressive Avon viaduct through open countryside towards Manuel.

Take in the magnificent scenery, shaped by nature and immortalised in poetry by Sir Walter Scott, during the 45-minute cruise on Loch Katrine, and learn the tales and legends of the loch as narrated by a member of the crew.

There is also some free time in the city of Edinburgh, with its Royal Mile in the Old Town, and Princes Street, which is filled with fine architecture in the New Town; a visit to the small town of Aberfoyle and Gretna Green, the haven for romantic lovers for over 250 years where a visit can be made to the Blacksmith's Shop.

INFO

- Return coach travel
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- Return journey on the Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway
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Four days departing April 11

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- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Royal Ascot on Ladies Day

Day trip departing June 19

★ **PRICE FROM £89.⁹⁵**

- Return coach travel
- Brunch-time full English breakfast with a glass of sparkling wine
- Admission to the Silver Ring enclosure (upgrade offered)
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative

Organised by Omega Events (ABTA Y590X)

Chelsea Flower Show and Windsor

Two days departing May 23

★ **PRICE FROM £179.⁹⁵**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Admission to the Chelsea Flower Show
- Visit to Windsor
- Services of coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Omega Events (ABTA Y590X)

York and the Dales buy one get one free

Two days departing March 23

★ **PRICE FROM £155**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to York
- Tour of the Yorkshire Dales stopping at Skipton, Grassington and Pateley Bridge
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

The Isle of Man

Four days departing April 18

★ **PRICE FROM £329**

- Return coach and ferry crossings
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Two round the island tours accompanied by a local guide
- Visits and entrance fees to the Cregneash Folk Village, Grove House and Laxey Wheel
- Entertainment at the hotel on one evening
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Bath and Oxford buy one get one free

Two days departing March 23

★ **PRICE FROM £149**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Visits to Bath and Oxford
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Bruges by Eurostar

Four days various departure dates

★ **PRICE FROM £289**

- Return standard class seat on Eurostar
- Return rail connection to London (selected dates)
- Return coach transfers overseas
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided walking tour of Bruges
- Visit to a traditional chocolate maker
- Visit to Ypres and the First World War battlefields
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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Eight days various departure dates

★ **PRICE FROM £859**

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- Two nights bed and breakfast accommodation in Nice
- Five nights half-board accommodation on the island of Corsica
- Coach travel overseas
- Ferry crossings from Nice to Corsica
- Walking tour of Nice
- Guided tour of Corsica's north coast
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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Four days departing April 10 and 27

★ **PRICE FROM £219**

- Return coach travel and Channel crossings
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- Visits to Amsterdam and Bruges
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A special night at the ballet

BIRMINGHAM Royal Ballet will be performing in their home city but not at their usual home theatre, Birmingham Hippodrome, when they present an Evening of Music and Dance at the city's Symphony Hall tomorrow evening, Friday.

Dancers will be joined by the company's orchestra, the Royal Ballet Sinfonia, under the baton of principal conductor Paul Murphy, for a performance that includes Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance March No.5. There will also be a pas de deux from David Bintley's Beauty and the Beast and new choreography by company dancer Ruth Brill for Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue.

During the evening, compared by former Royal Ballet star Deborah Bull, there will be an appearance from students of Elmhurst School for Dance, performing a piece especially created for them.

Ticket prices range from £10 to £29.50 plus fees.

Fracking cash is a 'bribe' says leader

THE Government's drive to encourage councils to support fracking is a 'cynical bribe' aimed at dividing communities, says Dudley's council leader.

Councillor David Spark spoke after prime Minister David Cameron said local authorities would receive all the business rates collected from shale gas schemes, as opposed to the usual 50 per cent.

The move is part of an 'all out' drive to exploit the controversial technique, which uses high-pressure liquid to fracture rock and extract the gas from it.

"It is an absolute insult," said Councillor Sparks. "From a financial perspective the incentives on offer in other countries are 10 times the level offered by this government."

"It is a typical insult from a government that is contemptuous of local communities."

"They are aware many people are desperate for jobs, and this is a cynical bribe aimed at dividing people in our communities."

Earthquakes

Councillor Sparks echoed the views of environmental activists who are bitterly opposed to the technique, which they say can increase climate change, cause small earthquakes and pollute water supplies.

"This is very controversial technology involving a lot of environmental risks," he said. "I am not certain these risks outweigh the rewards."

"Large sections of the public haven't got a clue about fracking and without proper discussion there is a real danger of people being blinded by pseudo-science."

"But I would expect the people of Dudley to be totally opposed to exposing their properties to the dangers associated with fracking."

He added: "This is an issue that is

not new for the Black Country, as we are still trying to solve the problems created by mining and minerals extraction that took place hundreds of years ago."

"Obviously money is very scarce at local authority level now, so if something does go wrong who will foot the bill to sort it out?"

In December last year a government commissioned report identified the Black Country and Staffordshire as possible drilling sites.

And this week French energy giant Total confirmed it has taken a 40 per cent share in two gas exploration licences for drilling in the Gainsborough Trough, an area between Doncaster and Lincoln.

In August scores of protesters blocked the entrance to Lichfield-based energy firm Cuadrilla's headquarters, claiming fracking would send fuel bills 'through the roof'.

Panto sets gold standard



Gemma Walters, left, aged 16, of Wolverhampton, is Goldilocks, while Helen Hollis, 45, of Sedgley, is Mother Bear in the new Rainbow Pantomimes production

A PANTO company is preparing to bring a fairytale to life on stage.

Rainbow Pantomimes of Sedgley have been working round the clock on their production of Goldilocks and the Three Bears, written by Reece Sibbald, which is being staged at the Dormston Mill Theatre in Sedgley.

Goldilocks

The show will run from Sunday, January 19, to January 25. Gemma Walters, aged 16, of Wolverhampton, has the starring role as Goldilocks.

Ticket prices range from £5 to £8.50. There are 7.30pm performances Monday to Saturday with 2.30pm matinees on Sunday and Saturday.

There is a midweek deal of four tickets for £20.

For tickets telephone Dora on 01902 894472.

Rainbow Pantomimes was founded more than 20 years ago to encourage more people to learn all aspects of stage work.

He's simply the nest



Zak Guest and father Dave with Sally Insley from Acorns 'SIMPLY the nest' - that's what a children's hospice thinks of eight-year-old Zak Guest.

Zak, from Brierley Hill, used his talent for building bird boxes to raise £60 for Acorns Children's Hospice. He first started making and selling bird boxes to friends and family to raise money to buy his favourite Lego set.

With a bit of help from his father, Dave, the young entrepreneur made 20 boxes, leaving him £60 left over after buying the Lego. Now he has presented the cash - and a bird box - to the Walsall-based hospice for very sick children.

Zak, a pupil at Roberts Primary School, Dudley, chose Acorns after his mum, Lindsey Holmes, explained about charities needing donations.

Zak said "I feel proud about raising the money and

it's good spending time with dad. But the best of all is helping all the children at Acorns."

The soaring success of his venture means that Zak has another 10 bird boxes on order and he is planning on donating £2 from every sale to the charity.

Caring

Sally Insley, community fundraising manager at Acorns, said: "It's wonderful to have a caring boy like Zak supporting Acorns, he is such an inspiration. The £60 raised by Zak will pay for three hours of care from a hospice nurse. Acorns currently support 200 children and 300 families across the Black Country and relies on fundraising and donations."

Anyone who wants to donate to Acorns should visit the website www.acorns.org.uk

Comedian back on the road

WEST Bromwich-born comedian Frank Skinner is heading back on the road and has announced his first stand-up gigs in the Black Country and Birmingham since 2007.

The Albion supporting funnyman, who went from comedy spots at a Bearwood pub to selling out the NIA for three nights, will perform his Man in a Suit show at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on April 16 and 17 and at Birmingham's Symphony Hall on April 22, 23 and 24.

The comic has revealed that he turned down an offer to narrate controversial Channel 4 TV show Benefits Street because he feared it would be derogatory to the people of Birmingham. More than 20,000 people have signed a petition calling for Benefits Street to be axed.

The documentary follows the lives of people in James Turner Street, Winslow Green. The show has attracted hundreds of complaints to watchdog Ofcom but also some of the channel's highest viewing figures.

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What's On! Halesowen

Young Voices to sing in thousands

THE world's largest school choir is filling Birmingham's LG Arena with song this week during a series of performances concluding tomorrow night, Friday.

Young Voices is the largest school choir organiser in the world and it will bring together more than 24,000 children over four nights at the LG, where they will be joined by special guest Stacey Solomon.

A spokesman for Young Voices said: "These will be fantastic evenings of entertainment for parents, children and their teachers."

Tickets are available from the venue.

Only Fools would miss Boycie tour

BOYCIE, Marlene, Del Boy and Rodney may soon be reunited for an Only Fools And Horses TV revival but fans can catch up with Boycie at local theatres. Actor John Challis has created Only Fools and Boycie and performs it at Bridgnorth's Theatre On The Steps on February 1, Lichfield's Garrick Theatre on March 7, Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre on March 8.

It's Oldbury panto time - oh yes it is

OLDBURY Rep continues its 75th anniversary season with traditional panto Jack and the Beanstalk, written by Alan Wood, staged nightly with the final performances on Saturday afternoon and evening at the Barlow Theatre, in Spring Walk, Langley. Call 0121 552 2761.

Noel is living the high life in heels for Aussie musical



Life's a drag, from left, Graham Weaver, Noel Sullivan and Richard-Grieve in Priscilla Queen of the Desert
Picture by Paul Coltas

AS well as shaving his chin, clean-cut former Hear'Say singer Noel Sullivan is having to shave his legs and armpits too for his latest stage role, as a drag queen strutting his stuff on two foot high heels.

The Cardiff-born singer found fame in 2001 on TV show Popstars, which launched the group Hear'Say. He has since created a career on stage in such shows as Grease, Flashdance The Musical and We Will Rock You. But the 33-year-old admits nothing had prepared him for the starring role of Tick and his drag queen alter-ego Mitzi in hit musical Priscilla Queen of the Desert.

Movie

It is based on a cult favourite Australian movie, about the lives of three friends who hop aboard a battered old bus in search of love and freedom, and bring outrageous entertainment to the Outback.

Noel is sharing the role on tour with Jason Donovan and will be in the high heels when Priscilla rocks up at Wolverhampton Grand from January 27 to February 1.

He admits he first had to learn to walk in massive wedges and heels before



New Priscilla star Noel Sullivan meets his alter-ego Mitzi learning the dance routines, which are performed in exotic costumes - including one made out of flip flops - to a succession of disco classics, including It's Raining Men and I Will Survive.

Noel will be joined on stage by former Neighbours actor Richard Grieve as Bernadette and Graham Wever as Adam/Felicia.

It will be the Night for Rod's songs

A HIT musical inspired by the songs of Rod Stewart comes to Birmingham next month.

Ben Elton's West End show Tonight's The Night, The Rod Stewart Musical stars Jade Ewen from Sugababes and will be staged at the New Alexandra Theatre from February 24 to March 1.

The show premiered in London in 2003 and went on to play theatres across the UK. It features more than 20 classic Rod Stewart hits including Tonight's The Night, Hot Legs, Baby Jane, Do Ya Think I'm Sexy and Maggie May.

Singer Ed's out with two LG Arena dates

BRIT Award winning singer Ed Sheeran has announced a UK tour which comes to the West Midlands this autumn.

The A-Team singer will play Birmingham's LG Arena on October 19 and 20. It will be his first headline tour in the UK since autumn 2012. Tickets are priced £37.20.

The 22-year old's debut '+' entered the UK albums chart at number one.

Comic subversion in acts of dissent

COMEDIAN and activist Mark Thomas brings his latest show, 100 Acts of Dissent, to Edgbaston's Mac Theatre, on January 31 and February 1.

Tickets cost £15 (£10 concessions) to hear about his acts of comic subversion.

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CHOICE



Emma Willis

The Voice UK
BBC1, 7pm

Given Jeremy Renner and Christian Bale's rendition of Tom Jones's classic Delilah in acclaimed movie American Hustle, we doubt the Welsh recording legend would have turned round for them had they auditioned for this show, but plenty of other wannabe stars have impressed his ears. This week it's round two of the contest to find the nation's best new vocal talent. Coaches Kylie, Tom, will.i.am and Ricky Wilson aim to build a team of a dozen singers or acts apiece, all chosen on their vocals alone. Emma Willis and Marvin Humes host.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Good Cook. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.45** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** BBC News: Regional News. Weather. **1.15** Live Snooker: The Masters. **4.30** Final Score. **5.15** BBC News: Regional News. Weather. **5.35** Dynamo: Magician Impossible. **6.15** Reflex. Shane Richie hosts the game show in which families from Blackpool and Carlisle battle each other in a series of physical and mental challenges, with commentary by Ken Bruce. **7.00** The Voice UK. Emma Willis and Marvin Humes from the second round of the all-singing, chair-spinning talent contest, with coaches Kylie Minogue, Tom Jones, will.i.am and Ricky Wilson. **8.20** The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of strangers compete by listing as much as they know about given subjects. Including the Lotto and Thunderball draws. **9.10** Casualty. New doctor Cal goes to the rescue of a girl in a limo hanging precariously off a bridge, while Ethan uncovers the truth about a student whose sight is endangered by flying glass. **10.00** BBC News: Weather. **10.20** Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Arsenal v Fulham at the Emirates Stadium and Liverpool v Aston Villa at Anfield. National Lottery Update. **11.45** The Football League Show. **1.05** Weather. **1.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.45** Film: Sodom and Gomorrah. (1962) Biblical drama, starring Stewart Granger. **9.10** Life on Earth. (R) **10.05** Life on Earth. (R) **11.00** Fred Dibnah's Made in Britain. (R) **11.30** Great British Railway Journeys. (R) **12.00** The Great Sport Relief Bake Off. (R) **1.00** The Great Sport Relief Bake Off. (R) **2.00** The A to Z of TV Cooking. **2.45** Film: Ensign Pulver. (1964) Navy comedy, starring Robert Walker. **4.30** Live Snooker: The Masters. The first semi-final from Alexandra Palace, London. **6.00** Flog It! Paul Martin meets people in Derby who hope to make money selling their antiques at auction, and visits the Marmite factory in Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire. (R) **7.00** Live Snooker: The Masters. Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the second semi-final from Alexandra Palace, London, where the line-up for the final will be confirmed. Subsequent programmes subject to change. **10.30** Qi XL. Extended edition. Liza Tarbuck, Susan Calman and Sandi Toksvig join Alan Davies, with host Stephen Fry asking questions on a kaleidoscope of topics. Last in the series. **11.15** Film: Howl. (2010) Fact-based drama recreating the obscenity trial of beat poet Allen Ginsberg alongside an animated adaptation of his counter-culture epic. Starring James Franco and Todd Rotondi. **12.35** Snooker Extra. Hazel Irvine presents extended highlights of the opening semi-final of the Masters at Alexandra Palace in London. **2.35** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Pat & Stan. **6.25** Dino Dan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Dinner Date. (R) **10.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.30** ITV News: Weather. **11.45** Show Me the Telly. (R) **12.45** Film: Columbo: The Murder of a Rock Star. (1991) **2.45** Midsomer Murders. (R) **4.45** Regional Programme: Weather. **4.55** ITV News: Weather. **5.10** Film: Despicable Me. (2010) **7.00** Splash! Musician Paul Young, TOWIE star Dan Osborne, comic Patrick Monahan, model Danielle Lloyd and MP Penny Mordaunt vie for the next two semi-final spots under the tutelage of Tom Daley. **8.30** Take Me Out. A PE teacher from Scunthorpe, a farmer from Inverness, a Birmingham student and a Team GB taekwondo athlete try to win a date with one of 30 single women. Paddy McGuinness presents. **9.45** The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined by comedian and actor Russell Brand, X Factor host Dermot O'Leary, film star Goldie Hawn and musician James Blunt, who also performs in the studio. **10.45** ITV News: Weather. **11.00** Film: Burn After Reading. (2008) Two gym employees gain possession of the manuscript for a CIA agent's tell-all book and try to sell the secrets it contains. Coen brothers comedy, with Brad Pitt and George Clooney. **12.45** Jackpot247. **3.00** Ladette to Lady: Australia. (R) **3.05** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The American Football Show: Road to the Super Bowl. (R) **7.05** Trans World Sport. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** The Taste. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.35** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.05** Channel 4 News. **6.30** Speed with Guy Martin. For his second adrenaline-fuelled challenge, the racer tries to set the world record for riding a motorcycle on water, with the help of a Cambridge professor and marine engineers. (R) **7.30** Britain's Killer Storms. Feature-length documentary-drama telling the story of five major storms that battered the nation during 2012, hearing from people who survived them. (R) **9.00** Hostages. When Ellen disobeys Duncan's orders, he threatens to kill a member of her family and the surgeon realises she cannot trust anyone – not even those employed to protect the president. **10.00** Film: Knowing. (2009) An astrophysicist decodes a page of numbers revealing the dates of a series of disasters and tries to prevent them happening. Mystery thriller, starring Nicolas Cage and Rose Byrne. **12.20** Film: Panic Room. (2002) **2.15** Southland. (R) **3.00** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.05** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.10** Power Rangers: Megaforce. **10.45** Sluggterra. (R) **11.10** Access. **11.20** Celebrity Big Brother: Live Eviction. (R) **12.40** World's Worst Holiday Horrors. (R) **1.45** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.45** Film: Columbo: Murder Under Glass. (1978) **4.10** Diagnosis Murder. (R) **5.10** Diagnosis Murder. (R) **6.10** Mr & Mrs Murder. **7.00** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. A student falls to her death. (R) **7.45** NCIS. The team investigates the death of a lance corporal, whose body has been found in an empty house, and makes a startling discovery regarding the man's personal life. (R) **8.40** NCIS. Kidnappers strike on Halloween, wounding a marine sergeant and snatching his daughter, while Abby surprises everyone by turning up at the lab in a revealing fancy-dress costume. (R) **9.35** 5 News Weekend. **9.45** Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights of the famous residents' past 24 hours under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, including a second chance to see Friday's eviction. **10.45** Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Psych. Psychological analysis of the housemates' behaviour. **12.00** SuperCasino. **3.05** Baby Face Brides. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00** Great Movie Mistakes: Revenge of the Fifth. **7.15** Top Gear **8.20** Film: The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (2005) **10.30** Russell Howard's Good News **11.00** Family Guy **BBC Four** **7.00** Wild China **8.00** A Very British Murder with Lucy Worsley **9.00** The Bridge **11.00** Slade at the BBC **ITV2** **2.00** Film: The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants (2005) **4.20** You've Been Framed! **6.50** Film: The Incredible Hulk (2008) **9.00** Film: The World Is Not Enough (1999) **11.35** The Magaluf Weekender **ITV3** **2.45** Film: The Pure Hell of St. Tropez (1960) **4.40** Inspector Morse **7.00** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot **11.00** Prime Suspect **ITV4** **3.10** Film: The Cimarron Kid (1952) **4.55** Film: Horizons West (1952) **6.35** Film: The Horse Soldiers (1959) **9.00** Film: Memphis Belle (1990) Second World War drama, starring Matthew Modine. **11.10** Film: The Howling (1981) **E4** **3.30** Film: Dragonball Evolution (2009) **5.10** Rude (sh) Tube **6.05** How I Met Your Mother **7.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** The Tomorrow People **9.00** Film: Top Gun (1986) **11.10** The Big Bang Theory **Film4** **2.45** Nacho Libre (2006) **4.35** Bugsy Malone (1976) **6.25** Stardust (2007) Fantasy adventure, starring Charlie Cox and Claire Danes. **9.00** Runaway Jury (2003) **11.30** Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986)

FREE TV Amplifiers for Pensioners

As part of Amplifon's National Campaign for Better Hearing we are now giving enquirers with hearing difficulties a **FREE TV Amplifier** to help with everyday sounds around the home - great for conversation, listening to TV, radio, even birds singing!

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 19.01.14

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Phillip Schofield

Dancing on Ice

ITV, 6.15pm
The atmosphere between Hollyoaks actress Jorgie Porter and her professional partner Sylvain Longchambon may have seemed rather icy, but it was still a shock to see the 2012 runner-up become the first celebrity to be voted off the show. Judge Jason Gardiner and the viewing public have made it clear that the celebs won't be able to glide through on their past glories, but who will impress this week? At least hosts Phillip Schofield and Christine Bleakley will be on hand to give the unlucky couple a consoling hug on what has been dubbed the "kiss and cry" step.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** BBC News. **1.15** Moving On. **2.00** Bargain Hunt. **3.00** Escape to the Country. **3.45** Liffeline. **3.55** Songs of Praise. **4.30** Hidden Kingdoms. **5.30** BBC News. Regional News. Weather.

6.00 **Fake or Fortune?** New series. Fiona Bruce and Philip Mould investigate potentially valuable works of art, helping a man who believes he owns a painting by French post-impressionist Edouard Vuillard.

7.00 **Countryside Winter Special.** The team explores the countryside during winter, searching for hardy wildlife, revealing how farmers cope and unveiling a sculpture by landscape artist Andy Goldsworthy.

8.00 **Call the Midwife.** New series. The nuns and midwives move into their new premises. Jenny is concerned about a patient's mental state and Chummy struggles to adjust to life as a housewife and mother.

9.00 **The Musketeers.** New series. Swashbuckling adventure set in 17th-century Paris.

10.00 **BBC News.** Regional News. Weather.

10.25 **Match of the Day 2.** Including highlights of Chelsea v Manchester United.

11.25 **The Revolution Will Be Televised.**

11.55 **Film: Shifty.** (2008) Drama, starring Riz Ahmed.

1.20 **Weather.** **1.25** **BBC News.**

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.45** **Film: Blessed.** (2008) Drama, starring James Nesbitt. **8.05** **Monty Don's French Gardens.** (R) **9.05** **Countryside.** (R) **10.00** **Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** **11.30** **The Great Sport Relief Bake Off.** (R) **12.30** **The Great Sport Relief Bake Off.** (R) **1.30** **Live Snooker: The Masters.** Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the opening eight frames of the final from Alexandra Palace, London, where the best-of-19-frames match takes place. Subsequent programmes subject to change. **5.15** **Ski Sunday.** The first semi-final from Alexandra Palace, London.

6.00 **Flog It!** From Derby. (R)

7.00 **Live Snooker: The Masters.** Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the second semi-final from Alexandra Palace, London, where the line-up for the final will be confirmed. Third seed Mark Selby prevailed over 12th seed Graeme Dott with a 6-5 victory in last year's concluding semi-final, earning him a chance to claim the title in a contest against Neil Robertson. With commentary by Dennis Taylor, Ken Doherty, Stephen Hendry and John Virgo, and analysis by Steve Davis and John Parrott. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

11.00 **Film: A Serious Man.** (2009) A mild-mannered professor seeks spiritual advice as a series of disasters disrupts his life. The Coen brothers' 1960s-set black comedy, starring Michael Stuhlbarg and Richard Kind.

12.40 **Sign Zone: Countryside.** (R)

1.35 **Holby City.** (R) **2.35** **This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 **CITV: Pat & Stan.** **6.10** **Pat & Stan.** (R) **6.20** **Pat & Stan.** (R) **6.25** **Dino Dan.** (R) **6.40** **Dino Dan.** (R) **6.50** **Animals.** (R) **7.00** **Animals.** (R) **7.05** **Animals.** (R) **7.10** **Om Nom Stories.** (R) **7.15** **Sooty.** (R) **7.25** **Om Nom Stories.** (R) **7.30** **Scrambled!** **9.30** **Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **10.30** **Dickinson's Real Deal.** (R) **11.20** **ITV News: Weather.** **11.30** **Inside the National Trust.** **12.25** **The Crocodile Hunter Diaries.** (R) **1.25** **Catchphrase.** (R) **2.10** **Splash!** (R) **3.40** **Film: Dr No.** (1962) **5.50** **Regional Programme: Weather.**

6.00 **ITV News: Weather.**

6.15 **Dancing on Ice.** Having progressed from the first round of performances, the 10 remaining celebrity skaters now go head to head on the ice. Presented by Phillip Schofield and Christine Bleakley.

7.45 **All Star Family Fortunes.** With Birds of a Feather star Lesley Joseph and comedian Stephen K Amos.

8.30 **Dancing on Ice: The Skate Off.** One celebrity hangs up their skates for good.

9.00 **Mr Selfridge.** New series. Lady Mae's husband arrives unexpectedly in London.

10.00 **ITV News at Ten.** Weather.

10.15 **Birds of a Feather.** Sharon makes a discovery in the loft. (R)

10.45 **Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Neil Morrissey.** The actor discusses some revealing topics. (R)

11.45 **River Monsters.** Jeremy Wade investigates the alligator gar fish in Texas. (R)

12.10 **The Store.** **2.15** **The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** **3.40** **ITV News.** **5.05** **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 **The Treacle People.** (R) **6.10** **The Hoobs.** (R) **6.35** **The Hoobs.** (R) **7.05** **Snowdown Race.** **8.00** **Will & Grace.** (R) **8.30** **Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **9.00** **Frasier.** (R) **9.30** **Sunday Brunch.** **12.30** **How I Met Your Mother.** **1.00** **How I Met Your Mother.** **1.25** **The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **1.55** **The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **2.25** **The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **2.55** **The Simpsons.** (R) **3.25** **The Simpsons.** (R) **3.55** **Film: Honey, I Shrunk the Kids.** (1989) **5.45** **Deal or No Deal.**

6.40 **Channel 4 News.**

7.00 **Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast.** Actress Sienna Miller shares her recipe for Tuscan duck ragu, Jamie Oliver cooks a whole salmon in salt and Jimmy Doherty creates a DIY hog roast for the ultimate crackling. (R)

8.00 **Speed with Guy Martin.** The racing fan builds a prototype trolley and heads to the Pyrenees, where he attempts to break the record for the world's fastest gravity-powered sled. Last in the series.

9.00 **Don't Look Down.** The death-defying new craze of urban free-climbing, where daredevils scale cranes and buildings without safety equipment and hang hundreds of feet above the ground.

10.00 **Film: Haywire.** (2011) Premiere. Action thriller, starring Gina Carano.

11.45 **Film: Domino.** (2005) Thriller, starring Keira Knightley and Mickey Rourke.

1.55 **Southland.** (R) **2.40** **Film: Internal Affairs.** (1990) **4.30** **Phil Spencer: Secret Agent.** (R) **5.25** **Kirstie's Vintage Gems.** (R) **5.30** **Deal or No Deal.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 **Milkshake!** **Peppa Pig.** **6.05** **Roary the Racing Car.** (R) **6.15** **the Flowtots.** (R) **6.25** **Bubble Guppies.** (R) **6.40** **The Mr. Men Show.** (R) **6.50** **Chloe's Closet.** (R) **7.05** **Roobarb and Custard Too.** (R) **7.10** **Bananas in Pyjamas.** (R) **7.25** **Make Way for Noddy.** (R) **7.35** **Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures.** (R) **7.40** **City of Friends.** (R) **7.55** **Little Princess.** (R) **8.05** **Only the Little White Van.** (R) **8.10** **The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky.** (R) **8.25** **Angelina Ballerina.** (R) **8.40** **Rupert Bear.** (R) **9.00** **Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) **9.15** **Jelly Jamm.** (R) **9.30** **LazyTown.** (R) **10.00** **Power Rangers: Super Samurai.** (R) **10.35** **Sluggers.** (R) **11.00** **Highland Emmerdale.** (R) **11.30** **celebrity Big Brother.** (R) **12.30** **Film: The In-Laws.** (2003) **2.25** **Film: Something's Gotta Give.** (2003) **4.55** **Film: Sweet Home Alabama.** (2002)

7.00 **Film: Legally Blonde.** (2001) Comedy, with Reese Witherspoon and Luke Wilson. Edited for language.

8.55 **5 News Weekend.**

9.00 **Celebrity Big Brother.** The remaining housemates embark on their final week.

10.00 **Film: The Lake House.** (2006) Romantic fantasy, starring Sandra Bullock.

11.55 **Autopsy: Whitney Houston's Last Hours.** Dr Richard Shepherd investigates the death of the singer in February 2012. (R)

12.55 **SuperCasino.** **3.05** **Living with ADHD.** Louis Smith. (R) **4.00** **Wildlife SOS.** (R) **4.20** **Make It Big.** (R) **4.50** **Roary the Racing Car.** (R) **5.00** **Angels of Jarm.** (R) **5.05** **Hana's Helpline.** (R) **5.20** **Angels of Jarm.** (R) **5.25** **The Funky Valley Show.** (R) **5.40** **Roary the Racing Car.** (R) **5.50** **Hana's Helpline.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 **Great Movie Mistakes: Revenge of the Fifth 7.15** The Voice UK **8.35** **Film: Monsters vs Aliens** (2009) **10.00** **Family Guy** **10.45** **Uncle 11.15** American Dad!

BBC Four
7.00 **The Man Who Discovered Egypt** **8.00** **Hidden Histories: Britain's Oldest Family Businesses** **9.00** **Film: Point Blank** (1967)

10.30 **Me and Me Dad: A Portrait of John Boorman** **11.20** **Nelson's Caribbean Hell-Hole: An Eighteenth Century Navy Graveyard Uncovered**

ITV2
3.10 **Film: Free Willy** (1993) **5.30** **Film: The Perfect Storm** (2000)

8.00 **You've Been Framed and Famous!** **9.00** **The Magaluf Weekend** **10.00** **Film: The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift** (2006)

ITV3
2.45 **Film: Columbo: Negative Reaction** (1974) **4.40** **Agatha Christie's Marple** **6.45** **Agatha Christie's Poirot** **9.00** **Film: Ray** (2004) Biopic, starring Jamie Foxx.

ITV4
3.15 **Film: Captain Newman MD** (1964) **5.45** **Film: Lonely Are the Brave** (1962) **8.00** **Dirty Britain** **9.00** **Film: The Conqueror** (1997)

11.00 **Hell on Wheels** **11.55** **Film: The Big Lebowski** (1998)

E4
4.00 **Marvel's Agents of SHIELD** **5.00** **The Tomorrow People** **6.00** **Brooklyn Nine-Nine** **6.30** **The Big Bang Theory** **8.00** **Film: Big Momma's House** (2000) **10.00** **Rude Tube** **11.00** **The Big Bang Theory** **11.30** **How I Met Your Mother**

Film
3.00 **The Producers** (1968) **4.45** **The Jewel of the Nile** (1985) **6.50** **Step Up 3** (2010) **9.00** **The Sentinel** (2006) **11.10** **MacGruber** (2010)

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NOW



Film Choices

MONDAY

Accepted, ITV, 10.35pm

A high-school student denied a place at any of his chosen colleges resolves to set up an educational institution of his own in collaboration with slacker friends. The ingenious misfits go to great lengths to convince their parents of the college's authenticity, despite its unorthodox curriculum. Comedy, starring Justin Long, Jonah Hill and Adam Herschman. (2006)

TUESDAY

White Mischief, BBC1, 11.55pm

An aristocratic English couple move to Kenya as Europe plunges into the Second World War, and join a colony of other bored and bitter expats leading a hedonistic life of sex and drugs. The wife soon gets into the swing of things by having an affair, but when her lover is murdered her husband becomes the prime suspect. Fact-based drama, starring Charles Dance. (1987)

WEDNESDAY

Color of Night, BBC1, 12am

A psychiatrist takes over a murdered colleague's therapy group in LA, hoping to flush out the killer. However, his judgement becomes clouded when he breaches professional ethics and begins a torrid affair with an enigmatic woman – and discovers a psychopath is out to get him. Thriller, starring Bruce Willis. (1994)



Accepted, Monday, ITV, 10.35pm

THURSDAY

Carnal Innocence, Channel 5, 3.15pm

World-famous musician Caroline Waverly moves back to her quiet home town, hoping to establish a simpler life. However, her return coincides with a spate of killings, and as rumours spread that a serial killer is on the loose, she begins to worry she may be the next victim. Thriller based on Nora Roberts' novel, starring Gabrielle Anwar and Colin Egglefield. (2011)

FRIDAY

Saw III, Channel 4, 11.35pm

Gruesome killer Jigsaw returns for one final deadly game with some more unsuspecting victims. Weakened by his terminal illness, the menacing criminal draws on his protégé's help to kidnap a doctor, whom Jigsaw needs to keep him alive long enough to witness his final gory adventure. Horror sequel, with Tobin Bell. (2006)

Thirst, Channel 4, 1.35am

A selfless priest devotes his life to helping the patients at a hospital. When doctors working on a vaccine for a deadly virus need a human guinea pig, he volunteers – but the procedure goes wrong, and he is turned into a vampire with an unquenchable desire for blood and sex. Horror, starring Kang-ho Song. (2009)

Pick of the Week

Peter hopes for a novel success in his new role

All for one, and one for all – BBC1's latest costume drama has a familiar ring to it.

However, don't expect this 10-part drama to be a slavish adaptation of Alexandre Dumas's classic novel – the Beeb describes it as being "inspired by the book instead, so we're guessing it will be more slick, sexy and glamorous, and punctuated by jaw-dropping special effects and stunts."

While most of the corporation's lavish period pieces do well in the ratings, this one may benefit from a few extra viewers tuning in to see Peter Capaldi in action.

The last time he was on telly, he'd just regenerated as the new lead in Doctor Who, and you can bet that some of the millions who tuned into that will watch The Musketeers to find out how their new hero gets on here.

The Scottish star is playing an altogether different role, however – he won't be saving the universe; instead, he'll be making lives a misery.

Capaldi plays Cardinal Richelieu, the arch enemy of Musketeers Athos, Porthos and Aramis and their young friend d'Artagnan.

"Cardinal Richelieu is protector and confidant of the king as well as being essentially the first minister of France," says Capaldi of his alter ego. "He runs the country. He is a military figure as well as a religious and political one. He has a network of spies and operates like an illegal secret service to pursue his ends. He is by nature Machiavellian."

Sounds exciting. However, the actor is the first to admit that although playing Richelieu was intriguing, he wouldn't have liked to have been around in the 17th century: "I would have enjoyed the frocks, and certainly some of the food would have been appealing, but the disease and hygiene would have worried me. I certainly would have missed the NHS!"

Some of the cast and crew needed medical help during filming.

"The production suffered from a lot of injuries: dislocated shoulders, bruised shins, the odd concussion,"

reveals Capaldi. "It's one of the occupational hazards of being a swashbuckler."

He came a cropper himself while shooting a scene in which Richelieu threw Milady, played by actress Maimie McCoy, against a wall.

"I felt a jab of pain," he says. "And when the director said 'cut' I looked down and saw my thumb was on the wrong way round. Nasty. Instinct took over and I shoved it back, which made my eyes water and my knees weak."

"The lesson clearly was, never get into a fight with Maimie McCoy..."

The first episode introduces the central characters, played by Tom Burke, Santiago Cabrera, Howard Charles and Luke Pasqualino, and focuses on what happens when d'Artagnan leaves his rural home and makes his way to Paris to petition the king.

However, his visit looks set to end in disaster when a loved one is murdered as Richelieu and the beautiful but dangerous Milady work together to further their villainous ambitions...



Peter Capaldi stars in The Musketeers, Sunday, BBC1, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Helix

Channel 5, 10pm

In the world of science fiction, Ronald D Moore is almost royalty thanks to his work on such shows as Star Trek: The Next Generation and Battlestar Galactica. He's also the driving force behind this new, 13-part thriller about a team of scientists from the Centres for Disease Control, who travel to the Arctic Circle to investigate a rumour involving dangerous experiments and the outbreak of a deadly new virus. Heading the team is Dr Alan Farragut, played by Billy Campbell, who was last seen in the US version of The Killing. He not only has to deal with a potential threat to life on Earth, but also his feelings for his ex-wife, a biologist joining him on the expedition.

TUESDAY

Death in Paradise

BBC1, 9pm

With its blue skies and sandy shores, Saint Marie is heaven on Earth. And at least (some of) the dead bodies in this week's show are meant to be there as a zombie film is being shot on the island. However, when one ill-fated stand-in shuffles off this mortal coil, Humphrey (Kris Marshall) and company have to investigate the murder. Apparently the cause of death is poison, but more mysterious is the motivation: who would want to kill a humble stand-in who had only spent a week on the island? Was the film's lead actress, Lexi Cunningham (Michelle Ryan), actually the intended victim in a plan that went pear-shaped?

Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans

ITV, 9pm

Comedian and erstwhile drag entertainer Paul O'Grady may be known for his cutting humour and over-the-top personality, but viewers of his many documentaries will be familiar with a softer side to the comic. That's a trait he displays here to the full as he spends time in Africa helping to hand-rear orphaned animals. He first visits a cheetah sanctuary, where he gets close to a litter of six adorable cubs, and then an animal rehabilitation centre to meet a young black rhino whose mother was shot and killed. Naturally, these pint-sized critters help crank up the 'aww'-factor, but the show has a serious side, too – can the animals be taught to survive before being released into the wild?

WEDNESDAY

The National Television Awards 2014

ITV, 7.30pm

What makes this awards ceremony mean so much to actors, producers, directors and writers – each category is voted for by fans, the people who actually watch their programmes and make them either hits or flops. This year, prizes will be given out in such categories as Talent Show, Factual Entertainment, Drama, Serial Drama, Documentaries and Entertainment Presenter, but there's a new kid on the block too – TV Detective. Dermot O'Leary presents the shindig live from The O2 in London.

Russia on Four Wheels

BBC2, 9.30pm

Anita Rani and Justin Rowlett are fast becoming one of the BBC's most durable double acts. Two years ago they joined forces on India on Four Wheels, in which they took a road trip around the country. Their next collaboration involved a trip to China. Now they're off to Russia, to find out how life has changed there in the 25 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall. Both presenters begin their journeys in Sochi, home of the forthcoming Winter Olympics. Anita will concentrate on 'new Russia' by meeting westernised entrepreneurs and rebellious youths.

THURSDAY
Hidden Kingdoms

BBC1, 8pm

Anyone with kids might begin to suspect they're part tree shrew after watching this edition of the nature documentary – the creature possesses super-fast metabolism, which means it is never not hungry, so is always on the look-out for food. Unfortunately for the tiny rodents, they face all manner of peril as they try to find a feed, including fire ants, giant snakes and even a carnivorous plant. Here,

Stephen Fry narrates footage of a young tree shrew in Borneo as it darts through the rainforest, before describing how a chipmunk collecting acorns for winter has its store cupboards raided by a neighbour.

Botched Up Bodies

Channel 5, 10pm

You might want to make sure you've long since eaten your dinner before settling down, as this series, which isn't for the faint of heart, wraps up tonight. The programme tells Claire Hawker's story. Her breasts were left horrifically scarred after a cut-price boob job in Prague went wrong. All hopes are now pinned on cosmetic surgeon Nick Percival to rectify the damage. Meanwhile, Michael Avola's six attempted hair transplants have left him severely scarred, £7,000 out of pocket and still bald.

FRIDAY

Room 101
BBC1, 8.30pm

Man Down's Roisin Conaty, Pointless star Richard Osman, and beloved broadcaster Joan Bakewell hope to convince host Frank Skinner that their list of loathed subjects is banished for the first of a new run. The inaugural category is Nature, and Joan gets to pitch her first choice: "Gardening is housework out of doors. There's no difference," she explains. Joan also raises the good point that housework indoors has been streamlined, but the fact you have to get on your knees in the garden on rubber mats that don't protect your knees, and with all the tools that go with it, is quite rightly hard work.

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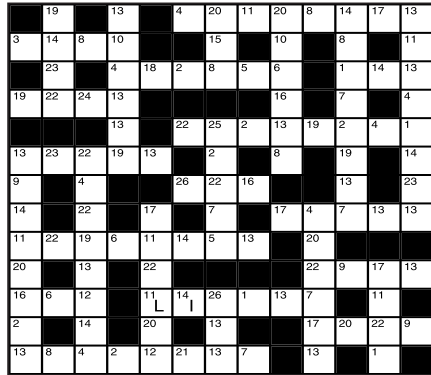
Puzzler

Brain Gym

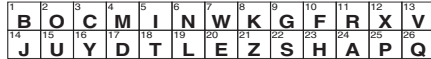
No.256

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

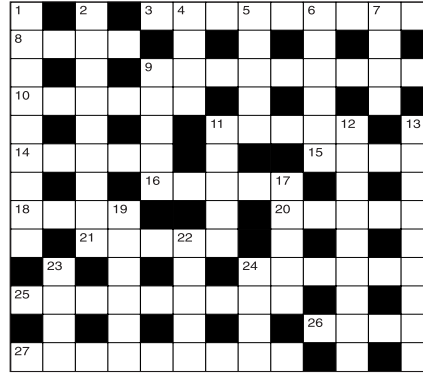
Cryptic Clues:

Across

3. Playfellow? (9)
8 & 23 Dn. Where you'll find the times are changing? (4-4)
9. Dominating - like a school replete with teachers? (9)
10. This may hold the wine for a tradesman, we hear (6)
11. He is involved in a dubious act (5)
14. There will be a time-lag if this is too slow (5)
15. Record part of the scale (4)
16. Part of the score a choir manage to achieve (5)
18. A curse the witness may be under (4)
20. Superfluous letter disclosed to the public (5)
21. Ground with unlimited space all round (5)
24. Natural tendency to make a great effort (6)
25. Exactly locates the golfer's target with compass directions! (3-6)
26. Look over southern vessel (4)
27. Bringing about a lowering of French classification (9)

Down

1. Cane out! I'd change what goes on in school! (9)
2. Deadlock produced by a companion out of condition (9)
4. Bring up right close to a sound receiver (4)
5. This will provide a light competitive encounter (5)
6. Painting in brown material is checked (6)
7. The ego is trodden underfoot, we hear (4)
9. A key for the army officer (5)
11. Violent impact producing commercial failure (5)
12. Patience that gives a certain range of latitude (9)
13. This clue is appropriate to the subject (9)
17. They entertain the crowds (5)
19. Basket to prove an obstacle to progress (6)
22. Made an effort, but produced an irritating effect (5)
23. See 8 Across
24. Weapon used in the closest engagements (4)



Quick Clues:

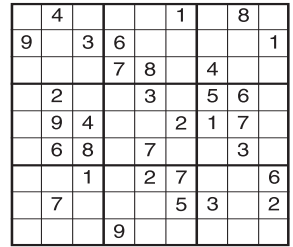
Across

3. Competent (9)
8. Spike (4)
9. Total (9)
10. Stupid (6)
11. Dreads (5)
14. Scope (5)
15. Resound (4)
16. Rigid (5)
18. Hints (4)
20. Abundant (5)
21. Fop (5)
24. Lament (6)
25. Trivial (9)
26. Greet (4)
27. Dispirited (9)

Down

1. Wrong (9)
2. Swollen (9)
4. Impel (4)
5. Big (5)
6. Number (6)
7. Consumes (4)
9. Donkeys (5)
11. Supernatural being (5)
12. Reluctant to believe (9)
13. Anticipate (9)
17. Drops (5)
19. Tray (6)
22. Blunts (5)
23. Rid (4)
24. Unsullied (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

9	6	1	3	2	4	7	8	5
8	5	7	6	1	9	4	2	3
3	2	4	8	7	5	9	6	1
6	8	3	1	4	2	5	9	7
1	7	2	5	9	3	6	4	8
5	4	9	7	8	6	3	1	2
4	1	8	9	5	7	2	3	6
7	9	6	2	3	8	1	5	4
2	3	5	4	6	1	8	7	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Fact; 3 Lavender; 8 Aids; 9 Contempt; 11 Reinvestment; 13 Cheers; 14 Cloth; 17 Treating with; 20 Cougars; 21 Spar; 22 Dredging; 23 Aard. Down: 1 Flat-race; 2 Carmine; 4 Arouse; 5 Entomology; 6 Demon; 7 Rate; 10 Overlaying; 12 Tethered; 15 Tripper; 16 Citron; 18 Route; 19 Aced. QUICK - Across: 1 Cove; 3 Penchant; 8 Note; 9 Standard; 11 Inconsistent; 13 Canopy; 14 Stupor; 17 Discourteous; 20 Initiate; 21 Weir; 22 Extended; 23 Edge. Down: 1 Convince; 2 Vatican; 4 Entail; 5 Constitute; 6 Again; 7 Tidy; 10 Inspection; 12 Preserve; 15 Proceed; 16 Subtle; 18 Idiot; 19 Rife.



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Simon B

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Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO
HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Home in a popular residential area



ON THE popular Russells Hall Estate, this three bedroomed semi-detached house in Russells Hall Road, Dudley boasts a 21ft lounge, a refitted kitchen and a converted loft bedroom.

With gas central heating and some double glazing, it is for sale through Connells at £115,000.

It has an entrance hall, through lounge, a kitchen, two double first floor bedrooms and a bathroom and a converted loft third bedroom, enclosed rear garden and an asphalt drive.

Shower

In more detail the lounge has a feature fireplace with a gas fire while the kitchen includes an integrated gas oven and gas hob with cooker hood over and an integrated dishwasher.

The bathroom has a white suite including a bath with a shower over. Bedroom one has a fitted wardrobe, a dressing area with a dressing table and laminate floor, which is repeated to bedroom two. Bedroom three has limited head-room and is accessed by a staircase leading from a door on the landing.

The garden has a patio, lawn area and two sheds. For further information contact Connells on 01384 429053 or visit the www.connells.co.uk website.



Appealing three-bed house in a quiet close

SET within a quiet close in Verity Walk, Wordsley, Stourbridge is a very well arranged and appealing three bedroomed, modern semi-detached home. It is for sale through Taylors at £134,500.

With gas central heating and double glazing it has an entrance hall, sitting room, a splendid combined Shaker-style kitchen and dining area, three first floor bedrooms, a bathroom, fore garden, driveway, garage and a rear garden.

In more detail the sitting room has a feature fireplace with a gently raised hearth and a part recessed coal-effect electric fire,

an understairs cupboard and stairs to the first floor.

The kitchen/diner includes provisions for a washing machine, roll edged work surfaces, a stainless steel sink and complementary splash back tiling.

Patio

Outside the rear garden has a slatted patio with steps extending to a shaped lawn area with maturing borders.

For further information contact Taylors on 01384 395555 or visit the website at www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk

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21 Sunnybank Road

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* Well appointed bathroom & ensuite * Enclosed gardens & large garage * EPC = B
£275,000

HALESOWEN



60 Woodbury Road

* Link-Detached family home
* Three bedrooms * EPC = E
* Kitchen with appliances
* Utility with washing machine
* Spacious lounge/dining room
* Family bathroom * Separate shower room * GCH, DGW & Garage
Monthly rent of £695+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

OLDBURY



32 Elm Croft

* Semi detached house
* Three bedrooms
* Two reception rooms
* Fitted kitchen with oven, hob and hood
* Upvc double glazing and gas central heating system * EPC = D
* Available Now!
Monthly rent of £675+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.



Pottery Gardens

Pottery Road

A new development of six two and three bedroom semi-detached houses to be finished to a high specification with parking to rear situated in a popular location close to Warley golf course and woods. EPC=B.

Further details from agents
Prices From £125,000 - £149,950



Gower Road

* Individual Architect Designed Detached House * Desirable Residential Locality * Fitted Cloakroom, Reception Hall * Living Room Forming Lounge & Dining Area * Breakfast Room, Kitchen & Store Room
* 3 Bedrooms * Well Appointed Bathroom
* Large Garaging * Extensive Gardens
* Viewing Recommended! EPC=E
Offers in the region of £289,950



Plot 3 Site of 46 George Road

* Link detached bungalow
* Two bedrooms
* Two parking spaces
* L Shaped lounge/dining area
* Quality fitted kitchen with host of appliances
* Luxury bathroom
* EPC = C
185,000



Pound Road

* Semi detached house
* In need of modernisation and improvement
* Two reception rooms
* Three bedrooms
* Garage
EPC = tbc

Offers in the region of £109,950



Pound Road

* Semi detached house
* In need of modernisation and improvement
* Two reception rooms
* Three Bedrooms
* Rear garden in need of work
EPC = tbc

Offers in the region of £109,950



79 Barston Road

* Semi-detached house
* 3 Bedrooms
* Living room
* Superb kitchen/diner
* GCH & DG to most windows
* Available from 01/02/2014
* EPC=E
Monthly rent of £650+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.



104 Beeches Road

* Refurbished two bedroom house
* Kitchen with appliances
* Bathroom with shower
* New carpets & fixtures/fittings
* Rear Garden, Alarm, DGW & GCH
* Available now! * EPC=D
Monthly rent of £525+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.



Arden Grove

* Mid terraced house * Tastefully presented and ideal for first time purchaser * Through living room forming lounge & dining area
* Fitted kitchen/breakfast room
* First floor double bedrooms & bathroom with shower
* Attic room * Enclosed garden
* Gas boiler heating radiators * Double glazed windows EPC=D
Offers in the region of £99,950



Windmill Lane

* Terrace House
* Two reception rooms
* Three bedrooms
* Small garden
EPC = C

Offers in the region of £84,950



Royal Oak Road

* Semi detached house
* Two bedrooms
* Two reception rooms
* Off road parking
* No upward chain
EPC = E

Offers in the region of £107,500



Cakemore Road

* Semi Detached
* Three Good Sized Bedrooms
* Two Reception Rooms
* Off Road Parking
* Rear Garage With Electric Door
EPC = C

Offers in the region of £124,950



Carters Lane

* Traditional Style Semi Detached House * Two Reception Rooms
* Study
* Fitted Cloakroom/Shower Room
* Extended Kitchen/Dining Room
* Three Bedrooms
* Bathroom
* Good Sized Rear Garden
* Gas Boiler Heating Radiators
* Off Road Parking EPC = D
Offers in the region of £259,950



CRADLEY HEATH

Unit 6 Corngreaves 76 Graingers Lane
* Industrial unit having gross internal floor area of 82.32 sq.m. (885 sq.ft.)
* Kitchen, toilet and mezzanine office.
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* Vacant possession available.
* EPC = tbc
Annual rent of £4,500



STOURBRIDGE Wollescote

43C Oakfield Road
* Ground floor apartment
* Two bedrooms
* Open plan lounge/ fitted kitchen with oven/hob/hood
* Gas boiler/radiator heating system
* Double glazing to windows
* Off road parking * EPC=B
Monthly rent of £465+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

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WOLEY CASTLE, Barnes Hill£975 pcm - Fees
A huge detached house close to Newman University. This property features 2 large reception rooms, modern kitchen, utility area the back of the garage, 4 big double bedrooms, shower room, separate toilet, huge long garden with a summer house, driveway for 2/3 cars. Benefits also include double glazing and gas central heating. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Garland Crescent£895 pcm - Fees
A stunning, unfurnished detached house in the well sought after location of Hurst Green. This fantastic property features 4 bedrooms, master bedroom with en suite, bathroom with shower, downstairs w.c., lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen. Benefits also include gas central heating, double glazing, driveway parking, gardens. Lovely views. EPC: C



ROMSLEY, Waverley Crescent£795 pcm - Fees
Exceptionally presented & extended 3 bedroom home in a quiet cul-de-sac in the popular village of Romsley. Large living room with elegant fire surround featuring a real working fire. Modern fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, dining room, study/bedroom 4.3 good size bedrooms, family bathroom with shower over 'P' shaped bath. Private rear garden and parking for 3 cars. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Century Way£750 pcm - Fees
A stunning new build modern 3 storey, end terraced family home has come on the market and an opportunity not to be missed. Comprising: spacious lounge with patio doors to rear garden, fitted kitchen, guest w.c., 4 bedrooms and 1 with en suite, family bathroom with shower, small rear garden, driveway and garage parking. EPC: B



HALESOWEN, Welbeck Close£695 pcm - Fees
A brand new unfurnished detached bungalow set in a cul-de-sac location. This lovely bungalow features 2 double bedrooms, large fitted kitchen, gas central heating, double glazing. Lounge with patio doors leading to the large garden, bathroom with a shower, large garage, gardens. EPC: C



ROWLEY REGIS, Fairbourne Avenue£675 pcm - Fees
Perfect for a family and close to the M5. A large Mucklow Style detached home which is available now, close to local shops and buses features 2 double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes and 1 large single bedroom, 2 good size lounges, large kitchen, downstairs wc, shower room, gas central heating, new windows, huge rear garden, driveway and garage. EPC: TBC



CRADLEY HEATH, Castle Close£625 pcm - Fees
A newly modernised unfurnished semi detached house in a sought after location briefly featuring 3 bedrooms, brand new fitted dining kitchen, brand new bathroom with shower. Benefits also include garage and driveway parking, rear garden. Cul-de-sac location. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Peckingham Street£575 pcm - Fees
Wonderfully refurbished with original features maintained. 2 apartments immediately available with fantastic convenience centre of town. Ring us now to view these lovely light, airy flats, one with 2 large bay windows. Each has modern kitchen with new appliances and useful utility room. With 2 double bedrooms and 2 bathrooms these are must see exceptional apartments. EPC: TBC



WORDSLEY, Lyndhurst Drive£550 pcm - Fees
Fantastic size property and a great location for local shops and transport links to Kingswinford, Stourbridge and Wordsley. This wonderfully presented fully refurbished semi-detached house features 2 double bedrooms, large dining kitchen, spacious lounge, bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, driveway parking. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Olive Lane £550 pcm - Fees
An unfurnished 2 bed semi detached home, close to Blackheath Town Centre. Benefiting from double glazing and central heating and comprising of 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen with appliances, utility room, downstairs family bathroom, 2 double bedrooms, converted attic room, garage and long mature garden. EPC: F



HALESOWEN, Haden Arch Court£550 pcm - Fees
Contemporary living in Halesowen. This ground floor spacious apartment, within walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre and buses, the apartment features gas central heating, double glazing, open plan living room/fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, allocated parking. EPC: B



CRADLEY HEATH, Harcourt Road£550 pcm - Fees
Unfurnished 3 bedroom mid-terrace house within walking distance to Old Hill Train Station and local shops. Featuring 2 reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, large rear garden and off road parking for 2 vehicles. Gas central heating, double glazed throughout. Available immediately. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Millbrook Court£525 pcm - Fees
Spacious refurbished 2nd floor apartment in this very convenient location. Having a large lounge with triple glazed windows, refitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, new bathroom with separate shower cubical, gas central heating, garage and parking. Available now. EPC: C



NETHERTON, Round Street£495 pcm - Fees
Beautifully presented and not to be missed. Set within a popular residential area, this unfurnished semi detached house comprises of a modern living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, house bathroom with shower. Benefits also include gas central heating, rear garden, driveway for 2 cars. EPC: D



CRADLEY HEATH, Court Street£495 pcm - Fees
A 2 bedroom traditional terraced property in the centre of Old Hill which features 2 double bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, 1 dining/study room, modern fitted kitchen and downstairs bathroom with shower and separate toilet. Gas central heating. Walking distance to rail/bus links. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Hope Street £495 pcm - Fees
A fully refurbished ground floor apartment having spacious lounge, refitted kitchen with integrated electric oven and hob, 2 double bedrooms, refitted bathroom and newly fitted carpets. The apartment has a garage and gardens to front and rear, full double glazing and gas central heating. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Banners Street£495 pcm - Fees
A mid terrace property which has been refurbished comprises of 2 double bedrooms, brand new fitted kitchen, 2 reception rooms, white bathroom suite with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, large tiered garden with decking area, on road parking. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Oldnall Road£475 pcm - Fees
Attractive apartment with high specification interior built just 5 years ago. This 1st floor apartment features gas central heating, living/dining room, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower. Also benefiting from a large garage and external storage room. Internal inspection needed to appreciate size and the spectacular views on offer! EPC: B



STOURBRIDGE, Hall Street£475 pcm - Fees
Located in the sought after area of Oldswinford. A quaint mid-terrace house, close to local shops and transport links featuring 2 double bedrooms, fitted kitchen, downstairs shower room, cosy front lounge, rear sitting room, large rear garden, double glazing, gas central heating, on road parking. EPC: E



LYE, High Street £425 pcm - Fees
Fully refurbished in the centre of Lye. This large and spacious 1st floor apartment has a lovely lounge with a feature bay window, 2 good size bedrooms, new bathroom suite but no shower, modern and contemporary kitchen with oven and hob, electric heating, double glazing, on road parking. EPC: F



ROWLEY REGIS, Winchester Close£395 pcm - Fees
An unfurnished 1st floor apartment, close to the M5 J2, buses and local shops. This apartment features 2 bedrooms, fitted kitchen, lounge, double glazing, bathroom with shower, parking space and parking area for visitors, communal gardens. EPC: D

Property



Smart move at this three-storey home

THIS 1930s three-storey, five-bedroom detached property offers significantly more accommodation than one would at first imagine.

Orchardleigh, in Showell Lane, Lower Penn, is extended at the back to exploit the advantage of a drop in level at the rear.

The property's lower ground floor offers a stunning lounge, a fabulous and luxurious high end cinema room and a custom made oak library – complete with sliding oak ladder – which

doubles as a 'fold away' guest room, plus en suite shower room.

This is a veritable smart house as the property is networked throughout, providing high definition television and a high speed internet capacity.

There are wall-mounted televisions in many of the rooms, including one in the bathroom with a water proof remote control and ceiling-mounted speakers, with electric underfloor heating in the en suite, plinth heating and lighting in the kitchen, the high specification technology is evident all through.

The superb, spacious kitchen incor-

porates every mod con, and is contemporary and sleek with dark cherry wood units with granite surfaces, complemented by large off white ceramic floor tiling.

The open feel is enhanced by concertina doors which lead out onto an enormous upper terrace which provides a continuation of the living space in summer months with a huge area ideal for lounging and entertaining. It includes a large study, a gymnasium and a secret wine store room. The property is priced £725,000 via Peter James. Call 01902 754777.

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Motoring



Ford unveils its new Mustang muscle car

FORD has unveiled its latest generation Mustang muscle car, which for the first time will come to the UK in right-hand drive form.

The car, which will go on sale towards the end of 2014, claims to be lighter and more advanced than its

predecessor. Also new is a 2.3-litre, 305 horsepower engine, which Ford hopes will boost the Mustang's eco credentials in Europe without detracting from the car's performance. Traditionalists have nothing to fear, however, as Ford has retained the car's signature 5.0-litre V8 motor.

Technical improvements to the car – now in its 50th year – include a revised

suspension set-up, reduced weight and an infotainment and navigation system specifically tailored for the European market.

Although the car is a year away from appearing in the UK, current estimates put the Mustang's entry-level price at around the £30,000 mark for the four-cylinder model.

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Models Shown: Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic, Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic and CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S Manual 2WD in optional Passion Red Pearl. Terms and Conditions: Nil Advanced Payment offer on Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S Manual and Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual, £999 Advanced Payment offer on CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S Manual 2WD. All offers are correct at the time of going to print however Honda (UK) reserves the right to change this offer at any time. Models subject to availability. Written details available on request. The facilities offered are for the hire of goods. The scheme is available to recipients of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners Mobility Supplement. To qualify for this offer you must be in receipt of a minimum of 12 months allowance. Valid for applications between 1 January 2014 to 31 March 2014 to Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HB. Promoter is Honda Motor Europe Limited trading as Honda (UK) at 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HB. Promoter is Honda Motor Europe Limited trading as Honda (UK) at 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY

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ADAM the city car with attitude

By Andy Enright

ODD name, interesting car – the Vauxhall ADAM is a city car with attitude.

The ADAM punts Vauxhall straight into the styled-city car sector. It's striking to look at, both inside and out and includes some features yet to be seen in this segment. The big question will be whether urban hipsters will get past this most blue-collar of badges.

Vauxhall has built some stylish cars in the past. The trouble is, they've only been stylish to a small percentage of the car buying population. A Vauxhall with widespread chic appeal? I'm struggling to think of one.

Some of the company's niche models have undoubtedly worked and worked well but with its ADAM city car, Vauxhall is looking to grab the attention of fashionista buyers who might otherwise choose a MINI, a Fiat 500 or a Citroën DS3.

We can't even blame Vauxhall for that odd name. It's an Opel thing. Vauxhall's sister brand in Germany flexed the corporate muscles a bit and insisted the car would be named after Adam Opel, the company's founder or maybe after the leader of the British design team, Mark Adams.

Generation

Talk to anyone who really knows about cars and they'll tell you how good the latest generation Corsa is. Trouble is, the man in the street still associates the Corsa with the mediocre old vehicles that replaced the Nova and weren't particularly great.

The ADAM rides on a cut down version of the Corsa's chassis and that can only be good news. It's been extensively re-engineered to suit the demands of the shorter wheelbase.

It's ostensibly quite a simple set-up but Vauxhall has invested years of know how into it. Up front are a set of MacPherson struts while the rear end utilises a torsion beam set-up. Ease of use on urban roads is enhanced by a CITY mode, which increases the electronic power steering system's assistance at lower speeds.

This is a car that's going to sell largely on whether the styling chimes with new car buyers and Vauxhall certainly can't be accused of going at it half-cocked. There's a lot going on, the design work attributed to Brit Mark Adams' team in Europe.



Vauxhall's new ADAM is looking to appeal to the customer's sense of individuality in the sheer amount of colour combinations and materials

The ADAM incorporates a 'floating' roof which is visually disconnected from the body, which works particularly well with two-tone colour schemes. It looks like no other Vauxhall but still incorporates a bunch of existing styling cues, such as the Astra's wing-shaped chrome grille bar and the blade shape in the lower doors.

Like MINI, Vauxhall is looking to appeal to the customer's sense of individuality in the sheer amount of colour combinations and materials. Wheels range from 16 inches in size for entry-level cars and there are 17 and 18-inch options further up the range, with a lowered sports chassis part of the deal.

Unlike many cars which offer striking exterior designs but an interior that betrays a sudden curtailment of development budget, the cabin of the ADAM is, if anything, even

bolder than the exterior. There's extensive use of body-coloured trim inserts, not only on the dashboard but also reaching along the centre console and onto the steering wheel aimed at giving the interior a real riotous personality.

Touch

A seven-inch touch screen interface is the big point of interest from a technological perspective. It's both iPhone and Android compatible, and can access internet-downloaded apps in the same manner as the latest Renault Clio and Peugeot 208.

Where specified, the navigation and infotainment controls are all marshalled by the touch screen. There's even a choice of headlining, including an LED-lit starlight roof trim.

Again with the wacky names. The ADAM is offered with

three trim levels, JAM (fashionable/colourful), GLAM (elegant/sophisticated) and SLAM (racy/sporty).

The latest generation ESP system is standard on all models and it also includes a Hill Start Assist function. That wonderful star-effect roof and a heated steering wheel are options that differentiate the Vauxhall from the run of the mill city car contenders and these surprise and delight features are key in a market that's not always led fully by upfront pricing. Talking of which, the ADAM starts in the region of £11,000, so it should undercut the MINI, if not the Fiat 500.

As you'd expect, the ADAM's economy and emissions figures slightly better those achieved by the same engines in the bigger, heavier Corsa. So you can expect well over 50mpg on the combined cycle and close to 120g/km of CO2 even from the poky 100PS 1.4-litre petrol variant.

In other words, whichever model you opt for, the day to day running costs aren't going to generate too much cause for concern. Insurance ratings and residual values both look extremely promising.

If you can get past the rather unusual naming culture, it's easy to see why Vauxhall are so bullish about the ADAM range. It cherry-picks from some tried and tested chassis and engine technology and builds on that with extrovert styling and promises decent build quality.

The interior moves the citycar game on in several key regards, including the option of a wonderful starlight roof and the intelligence of its iPhone and Android-compatible touchscreen infotainment system.

It all adds up to a very interesting choice if you're looking for a style-conscious little runabout. So don't sign the cheque for that Fiat 500 just yet.

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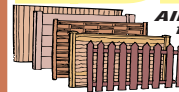
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Regional Centre, West Bromwich. B70 0QB

Classified Ads

Buy Local, Sell Local

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Monday - Friday for the next day's
advertisement or also before 3.00pm
Friday for Monday's advertisement.

funeral services

BIRMINGHAM ST MARY'S hospice
Birmingham St Mary's Hospice welcomes collections to support our vital work.
All donations will help us to care for more local families living with terminal illness. For more information on how to support your hospice, please go to www.birminghamhospice.org.uk or call **0121 472 1191**
Reg. charity number: 503456

lost & found

LOST—All black siamese oriental female Cat, chipped, neutered but no collar, small. Codsall area on Jan 2. Reward 07540 531192.
LOST—Ginger and white male cat, missing since December 17, in the Bradmore area. 07890 746758.
LOST—Male ginger cat, quite fluffy. Wallstones area, Boxing Day. Please check sheds and out-buildings. 07714 537004.

1 Family

elderly & disabled

ELECTRIC SINGLE BED excellent condition, deep comfortable mattress, £250 ono. 01384 835461.

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MOBILITY SCOOTER Days, as new, perfect condition, bid £1,000 ono. Telephone 01902 652618.

MOBILITY SCOOTERS from £350 can deliver, servicing available. Call Powerlink, Blackheath 01384 25019 / 07831 246232.

SINGLE ELECTRIC mobility bed, excellent condition, can be seen working, £250. 01902 780313. 07910 830159.

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £739. Plus New Lifts. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2 Leisure Time

car boot sales

Best Every Saturday Bootsale
10am - 1pm
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what's on

markets

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bikes

CUBA PRO Limited Mountain Bike, excellent condition, medium frame, hardly used, was over £1,000 new, sell £430 ono. 07775 368780.

caravans / motorhomes



CITROEN RELAY CAMPER VAN

Diesel, 2003, 2 - 3 Berth, toilet, cooker, fridge, heating, awning and 4 berth tent attachment included, 6 months MOT and tax, 57,000 miles, only used as holiday home.

£6,000 ono.

07852 831265.

LUNAR FREELANDER 2006 SPECIAL EDITION
Fixed bed, 4 berth. Many extras including mover and Alko ATC. Excellent condition.
£9,495 ono.
01902 894161.

caravans wanted

All Caravans Wanted
Any Age or Condition
CASH WAITING
Immediate collection
Call Bill on 07760 344 750

music shop

BLACKSTAR HT60 SOLO, boutique combo, cost £700, sell £395. Telephone 07585 705200.

MIDDLE AGED DRUMMER required, occasional gigs. Phone Ken on 07872 504746.

PIANO ACCORDIAN LESSONS, All ages. Learn a new instrument in 2014. Call Kevin 01384 378787.

YAMAHA PIANO in Rosewood. Beautiful condition.
£1,000.
01902 893327.

sports & leisure

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weddings

function rooms

FREE FUNCTION ROOM Weddings, anniversaries, birthdays. Powerleague 01384 266000 halesowen@powerleague.co.uk

3 Home & Services

antiques

ANTIQUES DOWN SIZING for sale. Ring for more details 01384 872996.

furniture

BROWN LEATHER three piece suite, excellent condition, £150 o.n.o. 01902 678746.

KING SIZE BED 5 months old, Staples spring mattress, 4 drawers, victorian headboard, excellent condition £150. 01384 268781

LEATHER IVORY SUITE 3 seater and recliner, £200 or sell separately. 07816 869611.

MID VICTORIAN TILT TOPPED OVAL TABLE
53ins x 40ins, Burr walnut veneer mirror image surface, Queen Anne 4 leg style centre support, restored 1980's. Offers. W'ton 07831 890812.

SOLID OAK SIDE BOARD 4 months old, £250 ono. 07816 888487.

THREE PIECE SUITE
Dracon, recently re-covered, reversible cushions, mulberry / cream pattern, solid suite, very good condition.

£300 ono.

Buyer to collect.

CASUAL TABLE

Light oak, 2ft 6 x 1ft 6 x 2ft 2, suitable for hall, lounge and bedroom.

£40.

01785 822588.

TWO SEETTES, 3 seater and 2 seater, brown leather, absolute bargain £70. 01384 75175.

household appliances

CANON TRADITIONAL 60 FREE STANDING COOKER
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in your garden

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Delivered Bagged or Loose
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items for sale

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ALL TOYS CARS/LORRIES WANTED
Mamod/Wilescro/Bowmans
All conditions
"Dinky" "Corgi" "Spot-on"
"Britains and Airfix"
"Mamod" / Wilescro Steam Engines"
"Scalextric Pre 1970's"
Tri-ang, cars or complete sets."
"Old Enamel Advertising Signs"
"Pre 1970 Annuals wanted, Beano, Dandy, etc"
01902 745598 / 07984 159571

ALL BOXED / LOOSE RAILWAY COLLECTIONS WANTED
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0121 602 2569/07891 713547.
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

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All areas covered
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appliance repairs

Home Appliance Repair & Parts
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All Brands - All Appliances Repaired
FREE 07764 478534
CALL OUT or 01384 373096

building services

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• Military items
Pre 47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

WANTED

CIGARETTE CARDS
Plus bubblegum and football cards such as A&BC, Barratt etc. Also comics and annuals required. Beano, Dandy, Marvel and other interesting old comics. Pre 1970 please. Will collect. Good cash prices paid for full collections.
Text message to 07938 186610 or call. 01952 253266

COINS AND WAR MEDALS wanted by private collector. Please contact 01902 676540.

WANTED Diecast model cars and lego etc. Also models available for sale. 07948 169754.

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS
Free call & estimates on any TV Plasma, LCD, Projection repairs. All areas covered & till late. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts & TV setups.
07850 330251

specialists at your service

accountants

ACCOUNTANCY & TAX, Year end accounts, VAT, PAYE, Est 20 yrs 01902 88 66 68 / 07850 450 636

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1 aerial into 2 rooms
£85
1 aerial into 4 rooms
£125
All work guaranteed
SAME DAY SERVICE
01902 858191
01384 429166
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07833 738857

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Classified Ads

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

BORDER COLLIE FARM PUPS
12 weeks old, out of good working Sheep Dog, colourful, very friendly
£80.
01694 781573.

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer.

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.
 2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
 3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
- Whist the Midlands and Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

CAVALIERS and Cavaopos, puppies and juniors, all colours. £375/£750. 07867 530504.

CHLOE 3yr old 3 legged cat needs home with her Friend Zoe, both neutered tortoiseshell cats, suit older persons. 07847 360784.

FOREST DOG RESCUE

Rehoming -
Sheeba - young Husky X, female, **Barney** - English Bull Terrier X, 8mths, **Lady** - Husky X, 2yrs, female, **Jack** - Rottie X, 1yr, male, **Foxy** - Husky X, 9mths, male, **Leo** - GHX X, 6mths, male, **Alfie** - JRT X Chihuahua, 20mths, male, **Snowy** - Staffie, 2yrs, female, **Saskia** - Lab X, 8yrs, female, **Rex** - Boxer X Staffie, 1yr, male, **Logan** - Lurcher, 3yrs, male.
01299 269181 or 07564 262371 www.forest-dog-rescue.org.uk

GERMAN SHEPHERDS 16 wks old, black dog, 3 sable bitches, \$350, 01746 761279, 07850 569996.

JAPANESE KOI CARP FOR SALE
Some from 15" - 18", all colours, from £35 each.
Also sizes here.
Accessories, pond filter, turbo cleaner, electric pumps.
All for sale, all cheap.
Selling due to ill health.
Please call 01384 860301.

KIND HOMES WANTED
ROB 6 year old tri colour collie cross affection
KIM 4yr old collie x hunterway, nice, friendly girl
AKASHA 3yr old very small german shepherd cross shy with big ears
SOPHIE 5yr old brown/white staffie, lovely temperament, loves car
SHEP 9 week tri coloured bordered collie short haired
JASPER Small jack russell cross 1yr old happy little chap
JASMINE mature liver/white springer spaniel girl
DOLLY Mature small pretty black/white border collie gentle
01588 676106.

MOTHER / DAUGHTER rabbit, also 1 top eared rabbit, new cages / accessories. Free to good home. 01902 754396.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

6 Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

BEAUTIFUL Studio flat, refurbished and furnished, Newbridge. £340pcm. 07886 002704.

BEDSITS, STUDIOS to let, newly refurbished, Willenhall area. Call for details 07885 158918.

EXCLUSIVE Ground floor one bed flat, Lovely location, Essington. £450pcm. Tel 07969 645889

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LOWER GORNAL, single self contained flatlet, fully furnished, own facilities, suit applicants aged 35+, from £80pw inc. 01384 821363.

MERRIDALE ROOM to let, £63pw inc most bills, good spec. Call 07771 195622.

ONE BED, CH, DG, off road parking, Netherton area, £110pw. Deposit required. 07978 781003.

ONE BED FLAT TO LET WEDNESFIELD

Fully furnished and refurbished to a high standard with off road parking, would suit working Gent, aged 45 plus. £60pw.

Telephone 01902 304258.

TWO BED Semi house, Eastfields, rear garden, off road parking, alarmed, £495 pcm. 01902 657766.

2 BED Semi, off 3 Tuns Lane, DG, CH, private garden plus drive, £495pcm. 07855 725639.

flats for sale

GROUND FLOOR FLAT, 2 bed, gas ch, superb corner position, situated best part of Penn. £110,000 o.n.o. 01902 331155.

houses for sale

BUSHBURY WOLVERHAMPTON

2-double bed end terrace, lounge and separate dining room, fitted kitchen, upstairs bathroom, DG, CH, large garden, rear local amenities, approx 1 mile from city centre. £80,000

With fixtures and fittings. Further details contact 07806 690837.

overseas property

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7 Jobs

EXPERIENCED PAINTERS, Carpenters and ceiling fixers required. Kidderminster and Dudley areas. Text only details to: 07802 876876

employment wanted

BUILDER seeks employment. Brickwork, patios, concreting, fencing, blockpaving. 07983 324438.

RETIRED TIME SERVED CARPENTER/JOINER Requires casual/part-time work. own van/tools. Has been involved in general maintenance for last 12 years. CRB cleared. 01384 375672/07527 360303.

courses

BILLY THOMAS DSA QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS HGV C+E (ARTIC) & C (RIGID) 7.5T (C1) SMALL LORRY C+E & TRAILER (B+E) MINIBUS (D1) 1-2-1 TRAINING INITIAL CPC TRAINING & ADR CPC Periodic Training for PCV & LGV from 7hr blocks - Full 35hrs 01902 744726 / 07831 646601

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office & secretarial

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part time - general

NEED AN EXTRA INCOME £200-£2,000pm - 0121 314 9652 www.bercher.info

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

DAEWOO MATIZ SE 1000cc, 58 reg, black, 1 owner, 36k, 9 months MOT, tax, alloys, excellent condition, £2,195. 07796 761902.

FORD FOCUS SPORT TDCI 1800

06 plate, 81,000 miles, silver, Diesel, A/C, alarmed, EM, EVI, CD, player, 6 mths MOT and Tax. Excellent condition. £3,250.

01902 259910 07505 371118

MERCEDES C180K ELEGANCE SE

Petrol, silver, automatic, 2003, 104,000 miles, FSH, excellent condition, taxed, MoT'd. £1,850.

Telephone 01952 750768 or 07503 252082.

MERCEDES CLK 220 CDI Auto, 06, 103,000 miles, FSH, Tax, MoT, leather seats, A/C, very good condition. £5,995. 07831 352174.

MINI COOPER Black, 07 reg, taxed, tested, 60k miles, very clean. £5,500 ono. 01902 839036 or 07751 191648.

NISSAN XTRAIL 55 plate, 64k, very good condition, FSH, £6,250 ono. 07837 336221.

PEUGEOT 307 HDI DIESEL TURBO 2.0 04, 5dr, silver, 6 months MOT, taxed, £1,995.

07407 750499.

PEUGEOT 407 1.6SE HDi Black, 04, 92,000 miles, taxed and MoT'd, SH, very clean, for quick sale, £1,595 ono. 07527 230756.

RENAULT LAGUNA 2.0 EXPRESSION

6 speed turbo, 5Dr hatchback in gleaming black, 04 Reg., one owner, CD, AC, MoT and tax, host of extras, no expense spared on servicing, alloys, drives fantastic.

Bargain £650.

07831 733934.

RENAULT MEGANE SCENIC DYNAMIQUE TCE

2009, 59 reg, 1.4cc turbo, blue, all usual fittings, only 21,300 miles, 10 months MOT.

£5,500 ono.

01902 634085.

SEAT IBIZA REFERENCE SPORT 1.4TDI

2008, 5-dr, metallic grey, immaculate, one lady owner, FSH, MoT 11 months.

£3,250 ono.

01902 380424.

SMART FOR TWO diesel, Oct 09, 11,700 miles, fsh, MoT/tax Oct 14, auto/manual, 1 owner, immaculate, ac, extras, £5,695. 01902 631710

VAUXHALL ASTRA Convertible, 06 plate, FSH, tax and MoT, 50k miles, silver, genuine reason for sale, £4,500 ono. 07955 111259.

VAUXHALL ASTRA Life 1.6 5dr, 2009, silver, taxed, MoT'd, FSH, excellent condition, £4,995 ono. 07816 589132, 01384 364066.

cars under £1500

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8SRI, 3 door, 2006, fsh, 12 months MoT, 54k miles, silver, built in Sat Nav, £3,999 ono. 07952 068594.

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ClassifiedAds

Yeltz drop two but still boost lead hold

Brigg Town 2 Halesowen Town 2
HALESOWEN increased their lead at the top of the Evo-Stik First Division South despite dropping two points at lowly Brigg.

Nearest rivals Leek Town lost at Kidsgrove to leave the Yeltz with a five-point cushion.

Inevitably, it was Ben Haseley, on his return from a month out with injury, who grabbed both goals.

Halesowen had already gone close through Iydesen Christie and Joe Hull before Haseley gave them the lead on 32 minutes.

On 40 minutes though, sloppy defending from the Yeltz saw Oliver Fisher allowed in to place his shot off the inside of the post and make it 1-1.

Straight from the kick-off Halesowen's lead was restored when Haseley scrambled the ball home after a melee in the box.

Unfortunately, Halesowen's task in holding on to the lead was made more difficult when Tom Tonks was sent off for his second bookable offence. Brigg did grab a point six minutes from time through Josh Nichol.

Old Hales work to get the victory

Lichfield 2nds 15 Old Halesonians 2nds 29

OLD HALES made hard work of this victory over a lively Lichfield side.

Craig Jukes opened with an Old Hales unconverted try.

Fly-half Tom Harris produced a beautifully cross-field kick that full-back Dave Wakefield, plucked out of the air to score. Harris added the conversion.

Just before half time Lichfield were on the scoreboard with a penalty within easy range of the posts.

A loose pass from Old Hales in the Lichfield 22 went to ground and a quick-thinking Lichfield player picked up and off loaded for there winger to race 75 metres to score.

A controlled driving maul ended with Jake Harley-Yeadon forcing the ball down for a try for Old Hales.

Lichfield rallied and scored again. The conversion was missed.

Hooker Dan Blake and Dave Wakefield added the final scores for Hales.

Hales look to be back on track with win

Old Halesonians 43 Syston 3
OLD HALES first team seemed back on track in front of a large crowd at Wassel Grove.

The match was preceded by a minute's silence as a mark of respect for Geoff Grant, a former player, member and stalwart of the club.

Leicestershire side Syston were the visitors, the first time at Wassel Grove.

The Hales side were in the right mood from kick off following some hard training, reflection and hard talking prior to this game after the narrow defeat to league leaders

Nuneaton last week. Nathan Jones at scrum half had his best game for the club, he directed play and kept Hales on the front foot.

He gathered the ball, kicked to the opposition 22 where Syston knocked on for a scrum.

The resulting scrum secured the ball for Hales, which was fed by Jones to fly-half Stephen Powell who spotted a gap and sprinted through to score, converted by Hooper.

Hales relaxed for the next 20 minutes allowing Syston to come back with a scrum close to the home 22 and a resulting drop goal

Rugby

to pull back to 7-3. Hales then began to work the phases. Second row, and former Colt, Tom King drove over for an excellent try, converted by Chris Hooper.

Continued pressure by Hales saw skipper Rich Taylor, come up with another try converted by Hooper.

In the second half Loz Breeseof flooded to hooker Pete Fitzgerald who sprinted for a great try.

Nathan Jones was forced to leave the game with an ankle injury and was replaced by Simon

Sabel from the centres and replacement wing Jack Manners coming on.

Sabel immediately made his mark from a forward ruck close to the visitors line, he gave an audacious dummy to drive over with Hooper converting.

Replacement, Prop Cliff Tomkinson took to the field and immediately began to disrupt the opposition front row.

The combination of three props, Dempsey, Taylor and Tomkinson contributed, with hooker Fitzgerald, to a formidable front row.

On 75 minutes Tom Dempsey

made a 25 metre run through the Syston defence. He managed to link with centre Andy Robinson who sprinted to score.

On 80 minutes Sabel took a quick penalty, linked with Evans who looped a pass to Fitzgerald.

He set off on one of his trademark runs, crashed his way through flailing defenders to sprint 40 metres for the try of the game. Hooper missed the conversion which was the last play, Hales victorious. Hales will try to avenge the earlier season defeat against Sandbach away this Saturday kick off 2.15pm.

Town rain on Hayes' parade for the victory

Tipton Town 4 Heath Hayes 2

TOWN came from behind twice to take points in a very keenly fought Midland Alliance game played in torrential rain.

Both sides should be commended for producing a good, competitive game which started in explosive fashion with three goals in the first 14 minutes.

Firstly Joe Geldart set up Dave Waple to open the scoring for Hayes but five minutes later a superb cross from Graham Ashton found Jordan Archer who equalised with an unstoppable header only for Andrew Davies to restore the visitors lead with a fine volley from 20 yards.

In first half stoppage time Town equalised thanks to substitute Ben Hadley.

The home side took the lead on 52 minutes when the impressive Marvin Nisbett beat three defenders to set up Hadley and then laid on another for Archer.

Town then had their tails up and looked as if they would run away with it but a couple of smart saves from Adam Jenkinson and a timely intervention from Ben Maddox stemmed the tide.

All the cogs in place for Wolves win

Wolves 2 Preston NE 0

IT'S taken a little longer than he may have hoped but Kenny Jackett finally got it all on Saturday - the performance, the goals, the win.

Preston North End never quite came to the boil and took only their second defeat in 17 games on the chin but the manner in which Jackett's team exerted a measure of authority over opponents of such high momentum added to the head coach's satisfaction.

And it would be unfair to go any further without mentioning the excellent performance of David Edwards.

He had already had one effort, clipped over the advancing Declan Rudd, cleared off the line before an identikit move saw the ball sit up nicely for a 28th-minute finish. The second goal has been a recurring problem for Jackett's team but not for Lee Evans on this occasion.

Resounding win sees Yeltz in quarter finals

Halesowen 14 Alvechurch 0
THE Yeltz Ladies side hadn't played for four weeks due to Christmas and the weather, however on a cold Sunday afternoon Halesowen faced new side Alvechurch in the Birmingham womens open cup.

Halesowen started the better side pressing the visitors.

Within 10 mins they were rewarded with a goal by Sophie Richards who scored with a low drive.

Halesowen were two nil up four minutes later with some tricky footwork by inform striker Haley Chatwin.

The Yeltz Ladies were in control and dominating the game.

Stranded

Richards on a run from the left wing lifted the ball above the stranded keeper making it three.

Leading goalscorer Rachel Letford made it four with a dribble that took her past a defender and slotting it past the oncoming keeper. Richards got her hat-trick on 34 minutes with a power house volley no one would stop.

Lyndsey Glover sent over a perfect cross and Letford's quality control then placed the ball against the lonely keeper.

Halesowen didn't get it all their own way, Alvechurch did attack but the Yeltz dealt

Football

with any threat comfortably. Halesowen finished the half seven nil up.

Second half was more of the same with two goals from Chloe Harris and another from Richards.

Goal of the game came from Sian Whithall whose volley bombed past the keeper. The goal was as good as any you would see in the premier league.

Halesowen still had time to score two more goals, central defender Gemma Moss with an amazing run went round several players and with a one-two with Charlotte Byatt finished the rout.

The Yeltz also hit the cross bar and the uprights on several occasions, but credit must go to Alvechurch as they never gave up.

Halesowen Ladies move on to the quarter finals of the open cup, they are also in the quarter finals of the county cup and undefeated in the league.

They are having a great season and looking good for 2014.



Shel Thomas for Yeltz Ladies in the thick of the action during their 14-0 rout of Alvechurch

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Back on track
Old Hales victory sees
squad on course again
Page 39

Fourteen up
Yeltz Ladies enjoy
a glut of goals
Page 39



Dunkirk spirit puts Tipton in the top five

Dunkirk 2 Tipton Town 3
TIPTON move into fifth place in the Midland Football Alliance after a pulsating and entertaining match in awkward conditions at Dunkirk.

With the rain having left its mark on the Dunkirk pitch, both sides were thankful for the match to be going ahead, albeit on a softer than normal surface. However, things did not start well for the visitors as for the second game in succession, Town went behind to an early goal.

This time the central defensive partnership of John Hill and Connor Gater gave Kory Simms far too much time and his deflected shot looped over James Pemberton and into the net.

Town fought back quickly and it took a superb block by Jake Want in the thick of a goalmouth scramble on eight minutes to prevent an equaliser and then just seconds later Ben Hadley struck the bar with a sizzling 25 yarder.

It was man-of-the-match Hadley who did get Tipton back on level terms on 15 minutes with his third goal in two games as he rifled home from the six-yard box.

The second half saw Tipton hit Dunkirk with two quick goals which put them in control of the game.

Both came from Marvin Nisbett. In stoppage time Dunkirk grabbed one back through Ryan Hastie.

Looking for strike force

WOLVES are in talks with another attack-minded target with the challenge of forming a new-look strike force alongside latest signing Nouha Dicko.

Head coach Kenny Jackett said Wolves are in discussions with another potential signing to boost his attack after the £300,000 capture of pacy 21-year-old Wigan frontman Dicko on a two-and-a-half-year deal on Monday.

But he stressed there are no imminent moves for Celtic's attacking midfielder Callum McGregor who has impressed on loan at Notts County, or Coventry's 18-goal top scorer Leon Clarke, who submitted a transfer request yesterday.

Wolves have been linked with a move for Sochaux's out-of-favour striker Abdou Camara, aged 23. A report claimed he had dinner with Bakary Sako in Wolverhampton.

Mel of a task for Pepe as the new boss

Saints 1 Albion 0

ALBION'S new boss, Pepe Mel, got to work after a first look at his team that laid bare the scale of the task ahead.

And that clarity for the Spaniard can be the only positive to have emerged from a dreadful day on the south coast.

Mel took to Twitter a couple of hours after leaving St Mary's to declare himself "excited" by the challenge of leading the Baggies into a new, uncertain era.

Privately, though, the 50-year-old must also be concerned about what he witnessed in Hampshire. Because if this limp, toothless display was the best Albion could

Football

produce with their new gaffer sitting in the stands and waiting to be impressed, it suggested halting the steady slide towards the Premier League's bottom three will be no easy task for the former Real Betis chief.

The word from Spain suggests Mel is a charismatic figure and a positive, forward-looking coach.

On the evidence of Saturday in Southampton, he will need all his powers of motivation and inspiration.

He will have taken precious little encouragement from Saturday, when it took his

new charges almost a full 90 minutes to carve out the one clear-cut chance from which a horribly out-of-form Shane Long should have rescued a point that would have been as welcome as it was unwarranted.

For the remainder of the game they found themselves pegged back, unsettled by the Saints' constant hustling and unable to keep possession for more than a handful of passes. The hosts might have scored twice in the opening stages, first when captain Adam Lallana side-stepped Gareth McAuley and fired too close to Ben Foster in the Baggies goal. Then, when the visitors failed to clear the ball from a congested goalmouth, Rickie

Lambert fired just wide. Steven Davis also sent a volley just off target for the Saints while Downing's men were restricted to a couple of opportunities that could barely be categorised as 'chances'. Steven Reid sent a powerful free-kick over the crossbar from long range before an unmarked James Morrison was unable to control a tricky, bouncing, crossfield ball from Long after a surge down the right.

Lallana exploited some woeful defending with 14 minutes remaining when he collected a fine pass from Gaston Ramirez and found himself with the freedom of the 18-yard box to make the only score of the day.

Heathens' building now done

CHAMPIONS Cradley Heath have completed their team building for the defence of the National League title.

Popular teenager Nathan Greaves put pen to paper for a second successive season with the club over the weekend – and on Monday morning Bury racer Matt Williamson joined from Buxton.

Heathens will again race home meetings at Wolverhampton's Monmore Green Stadium on Tuesday nights and fans have given the new team the seal of approval.

The latest signings mean Heathens total 39.92 for their combined team average within the 40-point limit.

Boss Will Pottinger said: "I'm delighted with the way the team has come together and I believe there is bags of potential throughout."

"Matt has the chance to build on a steady start to his career and we are looking towards youngsters like him, Nathan and Max Clegg to continue their development."

The club's official season launch night is on Saturday, March 8 at Cradley Heath Liberal Club.

Tickets, priced £5, are on sale now.

Dudley hammer in five for win

Bustleholme 0 Dudley Town 5

WITH no game for four weeks, Bustleholme were looking forward to getting back to business.

But it was the same old story of playing well but getting no reward.

Dominic Watson, who scored two, Steve Jones, Tom Overfield and Adam Callinswood made the goals.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Kettle, Telford, Thursday, January 16, 2014.

Halesowen Town 0 Coalville Town 3
COALVILLE'S Stuart Cameron converted two penalties to end Halesowen's long unbeaten run in the top of the table clash.

Third-placed Coalville made the better of the heavy conditions to dominate the first half and an early free-kick from Cameron was turned away by home goalkeeper Matt Sargeant.

For the Yeltz, Matt Martin placed an 11th minute effort high and wide, but the Ravens were soon making hay down the right of the pitch allowing Jordan Hempenstall to fire in a couple of efforts.

Coalville snatched the lead with Cameron slotting home from the penalty spot in the 26th minute after Sargeant raced out of goal and brought down Anthony Carney.

Setback

The Yeltz made a good response to the setback with visiting goalkeeper Sean Bowles saving from Tom Tonks.

A long free-kick in the 33rd minute from Aaron Griffiths was then dropped by Bowles, but he recovered to save Ben Haseley's rebound effort.

League leaders Halesowen started the second period with renewed purpose as the visitors kept out two early second half corners and a 51st minute long-range effort which was fired in by Griffiths was deflected wide.

But Cameron fired home his second penalty in the 58th minute to double

made the better of the heavy conditions to dominate the first half and an

Football

Coalville's lead after Carney was fouled in the area again – this time by a trip from Curtis Tilt.

The second goal took any remaining wind out of Halesowen's sails and Coalville confirmed their title credentials by making it 3-0 when a right-wing corner was flicked on for Jamie McAteer to head home from close range with 10 minutes remaining.

Halesowen Town: Matthew Sargeant; Kristian Green, Brendan Kelly, Matt Martin (Nigel Penney 69), Joe Hull (c), Curtis Tilt, Jean-Michel Gueyes, Tom Tonks, Ilysenden Christie (Ross Clarke 69), Ben Haseley, Aaron Griffiths (Elliott Turner 81).

Unused Subs: Adam Meacham, Sam Pearson (GK).

Coalville Town: Sean Bowles; Danny Jenno, Stuart Cameron (Robert Evans 69), Glyn Cotton, Jamie McAteer, Liam Kay, Jordan Nadat (Andrew Hutchinson 82), Reece Lester, Anthony Carney, Jordan Hempenstall (Ben Saunders 63), Lee Miveld (c).

Unused Subs: Kern Miller, Sam Moore.

Referee: Thomas Hartly
Attendance: 378

Danny's the boy to build a Wolves team around



Danny Bath, centre, signs his new contract watched over by manager Kenny Jackett and Kevin Thelwell

WOLVES have vowed to build a team around Danny Bath after the hugely popular defender finally signed his new contract and he declared: "This is home."

The 23-year-old penned a three-and-a-half-year deal to keep him at Molineux until at least 2017 after agreement was reached between his agent and chief executive Jez Moxey.

The news finally ends any doubts on the centre-back's future as he entered the final six months of his current deal.

Brierley Hill-born Bath, who has been at Molineux since the age of 11, is Wolves' only ever-present in League One this season after emerging as one of the cornerstones of their

promotion bid. Head coach Kenny Jackett branded Bath the best defender in League One and said: "On his performances and his attitude so far this season he's somebody that, going forward, we can now build things around."

"Danny signing a new contract is excellent news for us. Sometimes an internal one is as good as any from the outside and that's the situation in this case."

Bath revealed his delight at signing his new contract – and backed the club to climb back up the ladder over the next few years.

Negotiations have been lengthy, but the 23-year-old was always keen to stay. "I'm delighted to have signed

a new contract," said Bath. "I've been with Wolves since I was 11 so I know the club really well and I think it's important for players to come through the academy and is hopefully a sign of things to come."

"This is a place I can call home. It's a family club and it feels like it's all getting back to what the club is all about with the work being done at the top by Steve Morgan, Jez Moxey and Richard Skirrow."

"It's probably taken up until this season to really establish myself in the team. Kenny has done a great job and improved me as a player."

"I think the club is now building something and hopefully we can go on to achieve something special."

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Back on track

Old Hales victory sees squad on course again
Page 39

Fourteen up

Yeltz Ladies enjoy a glut of goals
Page 39



Dunkirk spirit puts Tipton in the top five

Dunkirk 2 Tipton Town 3
TIPTON move into fifth place in the Midland Football Alliance after a pulsating and entertaining match in awkward conditions at Dunkirk.

With the rain having left its mark on the Dunkirk pitch, both sides were thankful for the match to be going ahead, albeit on a softer than normal surface. However, things did not start well for the visitors as for the second game in succession, Town went behind to an early goal.

This time the central defensive partnership of John Hill and Connor Gater gave Kory Simms far too much time and his deflected shot looped over James Pemberton and into the net.

Town fought back quickly and it took a superb block by Jake Want in the thick of a goalmouth scramble on eight minutes to prevent an equaliser and then just seconds later Ben Hadley struck the bar with a sizzling 25 yarder.

It was man-of-the-match Hadley who did get Tipton back on level terms on 15 minutes with his third goal in two games as he rifled home from the six-yard box.

The second half saw Tipton hit Dunkirk with two quick goals which put them in control of the game.

Both came from Marvin Nisbett. In stoppage time Dunkirk grabbed one back through Ryan Hastie.

Looking for strike force

WOLVES are in talks with another attack-minded target with the challenge of forming a new-look strike force alongside latest signing Nouha Dicko.

Head coach Kenny Jackett said Wolves are in discussions with another potential signing to boost his attack after the £300,000 capture of pacy 21-year-old Wigan frontman Dicko on a two-and-a-half-year deal on Monday.

But he stressed there are no imminent moves for Celtic's attacking midfielder Callum McGregor who has impressed on loan at Notts County, or Coventry's 18-goal top scorer Leon Clarke, who submitted a transfer request yesterday.

Wolves have been linked with a move for Sochaux's out-of-favour striker Abdou Camara, aged 23. A report claimed he had dinner with Bakary Sako in Wolverhampton.

Mel of a task for Pepe as the new boss

Saints 1 Albion 0

ALBION'S new boss, Pepe Mel, got to work after a first look at his team that laid bare the scale of the task ahead.

And that clarity for the Spaniard can be the only positive to have emerged from a dreadful day on the south coast.

Mel took to Twitter a couple of hours after leaving St Mary's to declare himself "excited" by the challenge of leading the Baggies into a new, uncertain era.

Privately, though, the 50-year-old must also be concerned about what he witnessed in Hampshire. Because if this limp, toothless display was the best Albion could

Football

produce with their new gaffer sitting in the stands and waiting to be impressed, it suggested halting the steady slide towards the Premier League's bottom three will be no easy task for the former Real Betis chief.

The word from Spain suggests Mel is a charismatic figure and a positive, forward-looking coach.

On the evidence of Saturday in Southampton, he will need all his powers of motivation and inspiration.

He will have taken precious little encouragement from Saturday, when it took his

new charges almost a full 90 minutes to carve out the one clear-cut chance from which a horribly out-of-form Shane Long should have rescued a point that would have been as welcome as it was unwarranted.

For the remainder of the game they found themselves pegged back, unsettled by the Saints' constant hustling and unable to keep possession for more than a handful of passes. The hosts might have scored twice in the opening stages, first when captain Adam Lallana side-stepped Gareth McAuley and fired too close to Ben Foster in the Baggies goal. Then, when the visitors failed to clear the ball from a congested goalmouth, Rickie

Lambert fired just wide. Steven Davis also sent a volley just off target for the Saints while Downing's men were restricted to a couple of opportunities that could barely be categorised as 'chances'. Steven Reid sent a powerful free-kick over the crossbar from long range before an unmarked James Morrison was unable to control a tricky, bouncing, crossfield ball from Long after a surge down the right.

Lallana exploited some woeful defending with 14 minutes remaining when he collected a fine pass from Gaston Ramirez and found himself with the freedom of the 18-yard box to make the only score of the day.

Heathens' building now done

CHAMPIONS Cradley Heath have completed their team building for the defence of the National League title.

Popular teenager Nathan Greaves put pen to paper for a second successive season with the club over the weekend – and on Monday morning Bury racer Matt Williamson joined from Buxton.

Heathens will again race home meetings at Wolverhampton's Monmore Green Stadium on Tuesday nights and fans have given the new team the seal of approval.

The latest signings mean Heathens total 39.92 for their combined team average within the 40-point limit.

Boss Will Pottinger said: "I'm delighted with the way the team has come together and I believe there is bags of potential throughout."

"Matt has the chance to build on a steady start to his career and we are looking towards youngsters like him, Nathan and Max Clegg to continue their development."

The club's official season launch night is on Saturday, March 8 at Cradley Heath Liberal Club.

Tickets, priced £5, are on sale now.

Dudley hammer in five for win

Bustleholme 0 Dudley Town 5

WITH no game for four weeks, Bustleholme were looking forward to getting back to business.

But it was the same old story of playing well but getting no reward.

Dominic Watson, who scored two, Steve Jones, Tom Overfield and Adam Callinswood made the goals.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Kettle, Telford, Thursday, January 16, 2014.

UNBEATEN STREAK IS ENDED FOR YELTZ

Halesowen Town 0 Coalville Town 3
COALVILLE'S Stuart Cameron converted two penalties to end Halesowen's long unbeaten run in the top of the table clash.

Third-placed Coalville made the better of the heavy conditions to dominate the first half and an early free-kick from Cameron was turned away by home goalkeeper Matt Sargeant.

For the Yeltz, Matt Martin placed an 11th minute effort high and wide, but the Ravens were soon making hay down the right of the pitch allowing Jordan Hempenstall to fire in a couple of efforts.

Coalville snatched the lead with Cameron slotting home from the penalty spot in the 26th minute after Sargeant raced out of goal and brought down Anthony Carney.

Setback

The Yeltz made a good response to the setback with visiting goalkeeper Sean Bowles saving from Tom Tonks.

A long free-kick in the 33rd minute from Aaron Griffiths was then dropped by Bowles, but he recovered to save Ben Haseley's rebound effort.

League leaders Halesowen started the second period with renewed purpose as the visitors kept out two early second half corners and a 51st minute long-range effort which was fired in by Griffiths was deflected wide.

But Cameron fired home his second penalty in the 58th minute to double

made the better of the heavy conditions to dominate the first half and an

Football

Coalville's lead after Carney was fouled in the area again – this time by a trip from Curtis Tilt.

The second goal took any remaining wind out of Halesowen's sails and Coalville confirmed their title credentials by making it 3-0 when a right-wing corner was flicked on for Jamie McAteer to head home from close range with 10 minutes remaining.

Halesowen Town: Matthew Sargeant; Kristian Green, Brendan Kelly, Matt Martin (Nigel Penney 69), Joe Hull (c), Curtis Tilt, Jean-Michel Gueyes, Tom Tonks, Ilysenden Christie (Ross Clarke 69), Ben Haseley, Aaron Griffiths (Elliott Turner 81).

Unused Subs: Adam Meacham, Sam Pearson (GK).

Coalville Town: Sean Bowles; Danny Jenno, Stuart Cameron (Robert Evans 69), Glyn Cotton, Jamie McAteer, Liam Kay, Jordan Nadat (Andrew Hutchinson 82), Reece Lester, Anthony Carney, Jordan Hempenstall (Ben Saunders 63), Lee Miveld (c).

Unused Subs: Kern Miller, Sam Moore.

Referee: Thomas Hartly
Attendance: 378

Danny's the boy to build a Wolves team around



Danny Bath, centre, signs his new contract watched over by manager Kenny Jackett and Kevin Thelwell

WOLVES have vowed to build a team around Danny Bath after the hugely popular defender finally signed his new contract and he declared: "This is home."

The 23-year-old penned a three-and-a-half-year deal to keep him at Molineux until at least 2017 after agreement was reached between his agent and chief executive Jez Moxey.

The news finally ends any doubts on the centre-back's future as he entered the final six months of his current deal.

Brierley Hill-born Bath, who has been at Molineux since the age of 11, is Wolves' only ever-present in League One this season after emerging as one of the cornerstones of their

promotion bid. Head coach Kenny Jackett branded Bath the best defender in League One and said: "On his performances and his attitude so far this season he's somebody that, going forward, we can now build things around."

"Danny signing a new contract is excellent news for us. Sometimes an internal one is as good as any from the outside and that's the situation in this case."

Bath revealed his delight at signing his new contract – and backed the club to climb back up the ladder over the next few years.

Negotiations have been lengthy, but the 23-year-old was always keen to stay. "I'm delighted to have signed

a new contract," said Bath. "I've been with Wolves since I was 11 so I know the club really well and I think it's important for players to come through the academy and is hopefully a sign of things to come."

"This is a place I can call home. It's a family club and it feels like it's all getting back to what the club is all about with the work being done at the top by Steve Morgan, Jez Moxey and Richard Skirrow."

"It's probably taken up until this season to really establish myself in the team. Kenny has done a great job and improved me as a player."

"I think the club is now building something and hopefully we can go on to achieve something special."

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